PARANORMAL UNDERGROUND®

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Haunted
PRESTON CASTLE

WEREWOLVES & LYCANTHROPY

8 CREEPY OUIJA BOARD MOVIES

My Encounters With ...
Dark Witches, Shapeshifters & Skinwalkers

THE EXORCISM OF
Clarita Villanueva

TALES OF A FIRST-TIME GHOST HUNTER

ALSO INSIDE:

RESHAPING REALITY WHILE LIVING IN AN ALTERNATE UNIVERSE

5 TIMES FAIRIES WREAKED HAVOC ON THE REAL WORLD

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Table Of Contents

CASE FILES OF THE UNKNOWN

22 **Haunted Sites**
Preston Castle: The History and Hauntings of Ione, California's Legendary Landmark

26 **Cryptids & Mythological Creatures**
Werewolves and Lycanthropy

28 **Haunted History**
The Exorcism of Clarita Villanueva

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

10 **Investigator Spotlight**
Project Paranormal: Scientifically Spiritual

20 **Haunted Entertainment**
8 Creepy Ouija Board Movies

56 **Author Profile**
'Haunted Marquette: Ghost Stories From the Queen City' By Tyler R. Tichelaar

PARANORMAL INSIGHTS

14 **Special Report**
Reshaping Reality While Living in an Alternate Universe

30 **Inside the Psychic Mind**
In the Footsteps of My Forebears: A Psychic's Journey Through Time

32 **Metaphysics & Energy Healing**
A Formula for Creation

34 **The Secret Life of Dreams**
Dream Interpretation: Fears in Dreams

36 **The Shaman Windwalker**
Annie's Ashes

38 **Get Spooked**
5 Times Fairies Wreaked Havoc on the Real World

40 **Magic & Lore**
The Bathtub Game

42 **Personal Experiences: Paranormal Encounters**
My Encounters With Dark Witches, Shapeshifters, and Skinwalkers

50 **Personal Experiences: Paranormal Encounters**
On the Edge Between Life and Death

54 **Personal Experiences: Ghost Hunter Case Files**
Tales of a First-Time Ghost Hunter

DEPARTMENTS

4 Contributors
6 Publisher's Letter
7 Calendar of Events
8 Paranormal News

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Winter has been an occultist and paranormal researcher for nearly 20 years. She has been published repeatedly since 2009 and has also been the subject of interviews regarding both areas of expertise.

Writing and witchcraft have always remained close to Winter's heart, feeling both require a profound understanding of one's self and environment. When she's not exploring the macabre and bizarre, Winter enjoys reading tarot, as well as writing poetry and short stories. All of her work can be viewed on her Website.

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Sean has written or contributed to more than 30 books for Global Communications and Inner Light Publications, all of which are available from Amazon.com. His books include *The Heretic's UFO Guidebook*, which analyzes a selection of Gnostic Christian writings and their relationship to the UFO phenomenon, and *Signs and Symbols of the Second Coming*, in which he interviews several religious and paranormal experts about how prophecies of the Second Coming of Christ may be fulfilled.

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Tara is a college student at the University of Tennessee at Martin, studying agriculture communications. She has enjoyed all things paranormal since she was very young and has always had a particular interest in spirits.

Tara recently became a member of the Spectral Tech paranormal investigating team. She is new to paranormal investigating but holds it very near to her heart. Although she has only been involved with four official investigations to date, Tara is rapidly becoming more involved with the paranormal and has thoroughly enjoyed investigating so far.

KAREN FRAZIER

Karen is a psychic medium and author. Her published paranormal books include *Higher Vibes Toolbox: Vibrational Healing for an Empowered Life*, *Dark of Night in the Light of Day: The Art of Interpreting Your Dreams*, and *Avalanche of Spirits: The Ghosts of Wellington*.

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Willie has appeared on A&E's *Cursed: The Bell Witch* and CMTs *Most Shocking Ghosts*. He also hosted his own public access show in Louisville, Kentucky, for 12 years, called *Spiritual Gifts and Wonders*. In addition, he has his own group of sensitives, called Soul Warriors, who are based all over the US.

DEANNA JANES

DeAnna Janes is an entertainment writer and editor who lives in New York City and has covered film, pop culture, and the like for print and digital publications that include DailyCandy, Fandango, Time Out, and Open Road Integrated Media.

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Cheryl is editor-in-chief of *Paranormal Underground* magazine and producer of *Paranormal Underground Radio*. She has more than 25 years of experience as a professional writer and editor and has published hundreds of articles on topics ranging from advanced technology to paranormal investigation. Cheryl's previous magazine experience includes roles as senior and managing editor for several niche publications.

https://paranormalunderground.net/

MORGAN LINEBERRY

Morgan is a graduate from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro where she obtained a bachelor's degree in English. She has a normal day job and is not affiliated with any paranormal groups, Websites, or businesses.

She loves to write and maintains a healthy fascination with all things paranormal thanks to experiences with the unexplained that she has experienced throughout her life. Morgan knows a little bit about a lot of paranormal topics from research she has done throughout her life. She pledges to keep you up to date about what is going bump in the night via *Paranormal Underground's* monthly news column.

MICHELLE M. PILLOW

Michelle is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author writing in many fiction genres, including the Dragon-Shifter series *Dragon Lords* and *Captured by a Dragon-Shifter* and the mischievously magical *Warlocks MacGregor*. A skeptical believer, she has a fascination with anything paranormal.

Michelle loves to travel and try new things, whether it's a paranormal investigation of an old Vaudeville theater or climbing Mayan temples in Belize. She has a BGS in history/business with an English minor and a photography degree. She is the co-owner of www.TheRavenBooks.com.

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Rainbow is a paranormal, abductee, and cryptid researcher along with her husband, Michael. She is an experiencer herself, dealing with paranormal phenomenon since childhood. The silk road of life has led Rainbow in many directions: cowgirl, medicine woman, gypsy, belly dancer, and truth-seeker. All directions have paralleled each other, finally coming together in Rainbow's articles, research, and blogs.

http://truthseekerhighway.com/

NICOLE STRICKLAND

Nicole is the founder and director of the San Diego Paranormal Research Society and serves as the team's EVP specialist and historical locations case manager. She has been actively investigating historical landmarks and private residences for paranormal activity since the early 2000s after a profound experience with the spirit of her beloved grandmother.

Nicole is also a member of the Ghost Research Society and was appointed to the GRS Southern California Area Research Director position in 2009. She also serves as a California Representative for the American Spectral Society and is the author of *Field Guide to Southern California Hauntings* and *The Haunted Queen of the Seas*.

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MATT SWEENEY

Matt is currently unemployed, is vision impaired, and has worked and studied in various areas of employment. He loves writing and contributes weekly to *The Paranormal Guide* with articles on varied subjects, but mainly discusses cryptozoology and UFOs. He shares his articles on his own Facebook page, "Marvels and the Macabre With Matty."

https://www.facebook.com/macabremarvelswithmatty

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Besides being a published author and a philosopher in physics/science with a master's in ancient alchemy, Maria Anna is also a medium with psychometric and remote viewing capabilities. She wrote The NWO, Their Thoughts ... Your Life: It's Time to Wake Up, We Are the Illusion!; Our Mind in a Controlled Quantum Euclidean Space?: Natural and Unnatural Energies as a Global Weapon for Mind and Behavior Control; and The Source of Immortality: The Global Elite and Their Fountain of Youth.

Over the past 20 years, Maria Anna has spoken to people with stories to tell in order to get to the details of strange and remarkable secrets and phenomena.

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A freelance writer, Chad is the publisher of *Paranormal Underground* magazine and co-producer of *Paranormal Underground Radio*. His interest in the paranormal led to the creation of www.ParanormalUnderground.net.

Chad has investigated with East Tennessee Paranormal Research Society and counts Waverly Hills Sanatorium, the Villisca Axe Murder House, Bobby Mackey's Music World, the Queen Mary, Queen Anne Hotel, Hotel Alex Johnson, and private residences among his investigations.

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JOHN YOUNG

John became a news reporter in the Marine Corps in the early '70s. He writes on a wide variety of subjects. Before that, he served in the US Army during the Vietnam War. After leaving the Corps, he worked in many other fields, including as a news reporter, photojournalist, editor on a weekly publication, surgical technician, truck driver, and route salesman security guard, among other jobs. But writing is what he likes best.

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Harbingers of Death From Around the World

When I was a kid I read a lot. One story I remember terrifying me was about how if you heard three knocks on your wall or bed that someone was destined to soon die in your family.

As I lay there petrified in terror trying to sleep that night, the story kept going through my head, until eventually I fell asleep. Later in the night, I was awoken from my sleep by the sound of three knocks. Luckily, it must have been a dream, because no one died ... that I knew of.

Chad Wilson, Publisher

It is such stories as this that help drive my fascination with the paranormal, the spiritual side in particular. I've often wondered, though, about other harbingers of doom and death from around the world, often in the form of some supernatural creature.

The Mothman represents one of the most talked about omen-bringers from the modern age. Getting its birth in the area around Point Pleasant, West Virginia, the Mothman was said by some to foretell the collapse of the Silver Bridge connecting Point Pleasant with Gallipolis, Ohio, across the river in 1967. That tragedy caused 46 deaths, and with its connection to the Mothman, the legend of the creature as a harbinger of death was born.

The tale of the Barghest, or Hellhound, hails from the folklore of Northern England. Sighting one is said to foretell an imminent death. According to legend, if you stare into the eyes of the Hellhound three times or more, you can expect to die. Hellhounds are also said to be protectors of other supernatural creatures and beings of power.

The Black Bird of Chernobyl is a strange, Mothman-like creature hailing from the area around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Russia. A giant, black, winged creature, the Black Bird of Chernobyl was said to coast on the winds in the area prior to the Chernobyl disaster. Looking like a headless man with piercing red eyes, anyone who saw it soon had horrible nightmares. To give the legend even more veracity, workers who survived the initial Chernobyl blast claimed to have seen a large, black, winged creature with a 20-foot wingspan gliding through the smoke and vapor from the ruined reactor. This was the last time the creature was seen in the area, and it became a part of the local folklore.

Two other creatures come from Wales and Ireland, and they are so similar in description that they could be the same creature. The Cyoeraeth from Wales is a robed and hooded spirit who wails in the presence of an impending death or tragedy. Just seeing the Cyoeraeth means you should soon expect to die or suffer a death in your family.

Like the Cyoeraeth, the Banshee of Ireland is said to foretell death in a family through a gruesome wailing. In fact, each family in Ireland is said to have its own personal banshee. The banshee became such a big part of the funerary traditions in some parts of Ireland that professional mourners were hired to keen, or wail, at funerals as an homage to the Banshee.

So, as you celebrate this Halloween, keep in mind that the world around us is a strange place full of wonder and things unknown. Who's to say these harbingers of death are only folklore. I just hope you don't hear three knocks upon your wall or bedpost one night ... just in case it's not all folklore! Happy Halloween! ◆

November 3–4
The Excavation of Victorian Ghosts at Bedford Springs
Omni Bedford Springs Resort & Hotel
Bedford, Pennsylvania
http://ghostexcavationofvictoriang-hosts.webs.com/

November 4
MUFON Pittsburgh Area UFO Conference
Bishop Connare State Police Training Center
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
http://mufonpa.com/wp1/?page_id=929

November 4–5
Central PA-ranormal Convention
Pajama Factory
Williamsport, Pennsylvania
http://centralparacon.weebly.com/

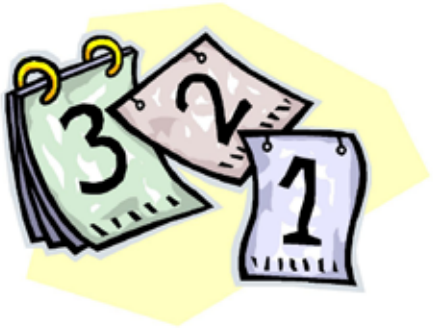
November 5
Mid-Michigan Paranormal Convention
Holiday Inn
Flint, Michigan
https://www.midmichiganparacon.com/

November 8–13
Mysteries Cruise
Sailing from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
http://www.mysteriescruise.com/

November 10–11
The Super Con 5
Poasttown Elementary School
Middletown, Ohio
http://thesupercon.com/

November 10–12
StarworksUSA Time for Truth Conference
Aquarius Casino Resort
Laughlin, Nevada
http://starworksusa.com/

November 18
Dark Matters Paranormal & Psychic Symposium
The Lumber Baron Inn & Gardens
Denver, Colorado
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dark-matters-paranormal-psychic-sympo-sium-tickets-38444012075



November 17–19
Sasquatch Summit
Grays Harbor
Ocean Shores, Washington
http://sasquatchsummit.com/

November 24–26
Chessiecon
Radisson North Baltimore Hotel
Timonium, Maryland
http://chessiecon.org/

December 9–10
Walker Stalker Con: New Jersey
New Jersey Convention & Expo Center
Edison, New Jersey
http://walkerstalkercon.com/newjersey/

January 12-14, 2018
Marscon
Doubletree Williamsburg Hotel
Williamsburg, Virginia
http://www.marscon.net/wp/

January 12-15, 2018
HAuNTcon
Ernest N Morial Convention Center
New Orleans, Louisiana
http://hauntcon.com/

January 14, 2018
Winter ParaFest
Nashvilles
Henrietta, New York
https://www.facebook.com/pg/Win-terparafest/about/?ref=page_internal

E-mail your paranormal event to editor@paranormalunderground.net. ◆

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Preston Castle
(Photo by © 2017 Bjarne Winkler)

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UFO Rendezvous, Ghost Marriage and Cryptid Sightings

By Morgan Lineberry

Devils Tower UFO Rendezvous

The first-ever Devils Tower UFO Rendezvous in Northeastern Wyoming was recently held September 14-16 by the Devils Tower UFO Convention & Festival Corporation. The date marks the 40th anniversary of the movie that made this location famous, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. I hate to break it to people, but I highly doubt the extraterrestrials are marking their calendars to make a special appearance for the movie's anniversary.

At any rate, this looks like a fun place to visit. The name alone piqued my interest (but I have always been a little odd). At least I am not alone. The event hosted a UFO-themed parade and talks from experiencer Travis Walton, field investigator Chuck Zukowski, and MUFON member and UFO experiencer Jan Harzan. I don't know about everyone else, but I want photographic evidence of this parade. (Pics or it didn't happen, right?)

If you were forced to miss this event because of boring activities, such as work, I feel your pain. I missed it too. However, even without a UFO-themed parade, Devils Tower might need to make its way on your wanderlust list. Theodore Roosevelt declared it a United States National Monument back in 1906. Plus, maybe you will not be the only "visitor present." Just remember to snap a few pictures!

Carolina Chupacabra?

Chupacabra is a name meaning "goat sucker" in Spanish for the fact that livestock are often found drained of blood when one is sighted nearby. It is an odd canine-like creature with long legs, sometimes described as having lizard-like qualities.

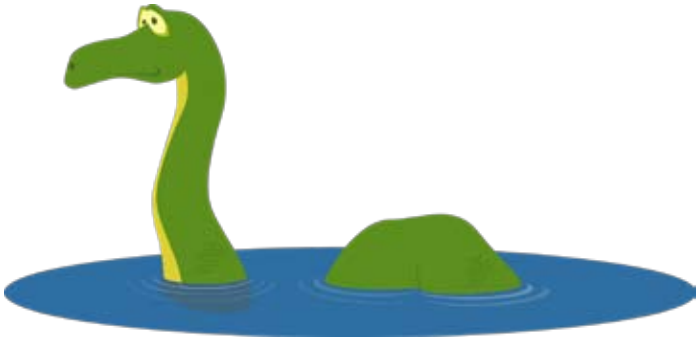
One theory I have heard about the Chupacabra is that they may be extraterrestrial pets left behind when a UFO makes a pit stop (for gas or tacos or whatever aliens stop for). If this is true, perhaps extraterrestrials are on the way to Devils Tower, because I think they might have taken a wrong turn and left their pet behind in South Carolina.

Doug Stewart added 5 new photos.
August 9 ·
Ok...playing Golf in Santee SC. Can somebody pleeeeease tell me what the flock this is!?!? #ThatAintNoDog 2LiveStewsRadio.com
TheDougStewartShow.com

According to *Fox News*, a golfer encountered and photographed an odd dog-like creature on August 9. His plea on Facebook of "Can somebody pleeeeease tell me what the flock this is!?!?" is understandable. And while some skeptics are still claiming "that the hairless animal is a fox or coyote with mange," I am skeptical of these skeptics. Although "there has never been a confirmed sighting of the Chupacabra," this creature is the single strangest canine-like creature I have ever seen. And it looks hungry, so hopefully there are no goats near the golf course.

You could always try calling out "Here Fido!" and see if it responds.

TEGGIE THE LAKE MONSTER



Speaking of cryptids, we have all heard of Nessie, the resident Plesiosaur-like "monster" of Loch Ness in Scotland. But there are some lesser-known lake monsters swimming around all over the world that may be as unknown to you as they were to me. Not the least intriguing of these is the Bala Lake Monster of Wales, named Teggie. Personally, I find this name adorable and not terribly frightening, but then again I have not ever seen the creature in person.

Those who have seen Teggie claim he/she (I don't think I would want to get close enough to determine gender) can straighten his/her long neck and tower "10 feet in the air." The creature is described as similar to Nessie with a "small head and a long neck." Of course, others claim that this beast is either a large pike (with a really long neck?) or a tree branch.

One man who claimed to see the creature said it looked like "a hump protruding from the water" swimming from one side of the lake to the other. He also described it as being "as long as three dogs swimming together." I do not know which is odder: using dogs to describe length or still asserting that this creature is a swimming tree branch.

The pike theory makes sense here, but not for the previous sighting. So, whatever people are seeing is long, with an extremely long neck especially and a lump (probably on its back). Yes, that is definitely a fish ...

IS MARRYING A GHOST REALLY LEGAL?

The more I look into the paranormal, the more I think humans are the most inexplicable creatures on this or any other planet. I mean, what stunts will we pull next? I'm sorry I asked, because I have recently found that marrying ghosts is legal in many places, including France and China. And not only are they legal, they really happen. Called posthumous marriage, this practice occurs when one living person marries a deceased soul.

In China, these marriages are known as "minghun or a spirit marriage," and they often occur when a person's (mainly a female, as it is shameful to be in the family of an unwed woman) fiancée passes away before the wedding. Women are encouraged to have the wedding anyway, linking them together well beyond the "til death do us part." One catch is that both families must agree to the wedding. Of course, I mean, it would be insane otherwise, right? It is also important to note that both parties can be deceased and still get legally wed if both families agree.

Personally, I have never wanted to get married, but if I ever decide otherwise, at least I now know I could go to China and get a groom who would let me have the whole bed to myself. I am just not sure it is worth all the trouble. Not to mention it sounds like a haunting waiting to happen. ◆

PROJECT PARANORMAL
SCIENTIFICALLY SPIRITUAL

By Cheryl Knight

Founded in 2014, UK-based Project Paranormal (formerly known as Knights Templar Paranormal Order) sets out to capture hard evidence of paranormal phenomena. The team also assists those needing help with spirit removals and cleansings.

"We are looking for definitive evidence of the afterlife," said Ian Ainsley, team cofounder.

Ian, along with current team members David and Karen Barrett, have investigated a range of haunted locations, including hotels, castles, museums, private houses, ruins, and woodlands.

In 2016, the team began recording investigations, which are available to view at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiPajYBtRSVsoKEUXDiRq_Q.

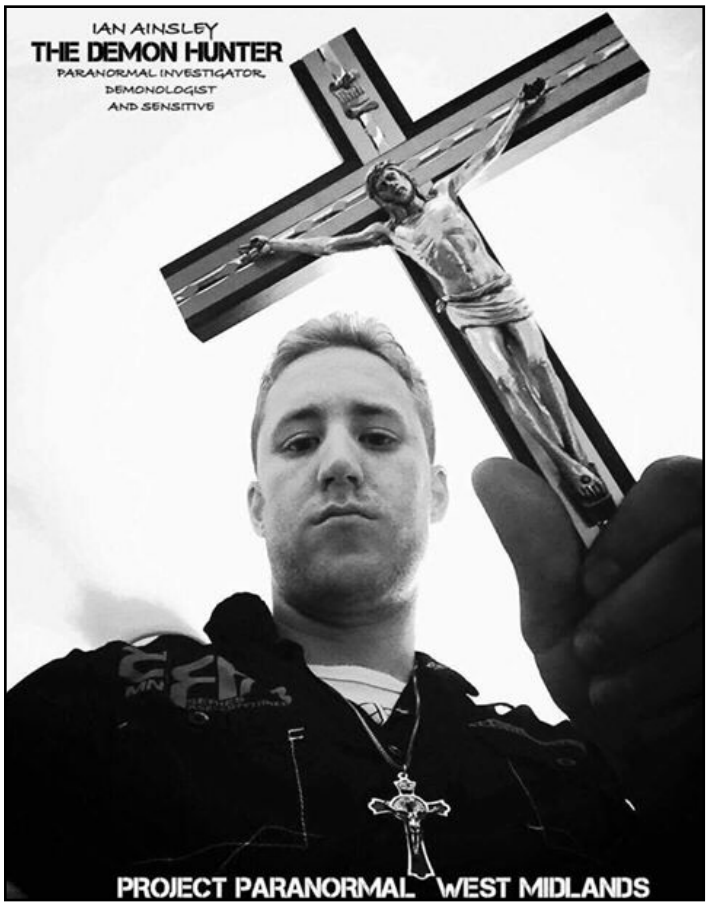
"We base our show on education, not entertainment," Ian said.

Paranormal Underground magazine recently spoke with Ian about Project Paranormal, its methodologies, memorable cases, misconceptions about the paranormal field, and more!

* * * * *

Q: What equipment do you usually take with you on an investigation?

Ian: We have an array of equipment we take with us, and we do try to switch up what we use on different investigations. I would say the most-used equipment includes Rem-Pods, a TriField Meter, a Mel Meter, a 4K camcorder (this goes without saying because every investigator always needs a camera), an RT-EVP recorder, a Spirit Box, the EchoVox App, and the Afterlight App.



Ian Ainsley has studied demonology for more than 11 years. During that time, he has only come across two instances that he would classify as demonic. He believes that demonic activity is a very rare occurrence and possession is even rarer. Part of his mission is to set the record straight on demonic hauntings.

Pictured from left to right are Project Paranormal team members Karen Barrett, Ian Ainsley, and David Barrett.

Q: What methodologies do you use during investigations?

Ian: As a team, we like to push the boundary in terms of methods used in our investigations. We do attempt a lot of science-based experiments with the aim to finally create a link between science and the spiritual, which is why one of our slogans is Scientifically Spiritual.

Q: What cases will you remember the most and why?

Ian: There have been so many memorable investigations we have done as a team, as well as in our respective other teams. But I would have to say the Applebank Inn Investigation was absolutely one to remember. It's not often that we get a lot of equipment being set off, yet at that location the devices just wouldn't stop. The walls of the pub were pumping off so much electromagnetic readings, and with all the devices being set off, it really is one that will stick with me for a long time.

Also, I won't forget the investigation myself and David did at Carnsalloch House, where we found symbols on the wall that are still unidentified and got a response of "He who watch Nergal." Nergal was a deity from the Sumerian faith. The name Nergal translates as The Great Watcher. Nergal was the Lord of the Underworld. So to get this catch was quite something for us and certainly one we will not forget.

Q: What is the most compelling evidence of the paranormal that you or your team has captured?

Ian: There are some interesting photos I have taken while at a place called Castle Ring in Cannock Chase, Staffordshire that is compelling evidence. But it's not 100% proof, as nothing ever really is 100% proof. But to me, the partially cloaked figure taken on a trail cam when no one was around is a very interesting picture. Plus, there was a possible shadow person captured behind some of my team members.

These pictures really do peak my interest, and as much as I try to debunk them, I really do not have an explanation as to a natural-occurring cause for them.

> "THERE WAS A POSSIBLE SHADOW PERSON CAPTURED BEHIND SOME OF MY TEAM MEMBERS."

Q: Talk about common misconceptions about the paranormal field that you've encountered?

Ian: Para Unity is something we aim for in this field. And you would think there would be more of it around — after all, we are all aiming toward the same goal: proving the paranormal. However, not all teams think like this, and it seems more like a competition with some teams.

Recently, David went to help out another team as an independent investigator (our team likes to help others in the field). However, this team completely abused David's kind nature and treated him horribly — all because he mentioned what team he was from, which the other team

→

Pictured above is Project Paranormal's "traveling haunted artifacts museum," which includes a dibbuk box, a haunted mirror, several haunted dolls, the crying boy portrait, and other haunted objects.

didn't like because they said it's supposed to be about promoting them, not us.

Q: Whose work in the paranormal field do you respect the most and why?

Ian: There are a few that I respect the work of in the paranormal field, but I would have to say Ed and Lorraine Warren for the reason that their work ethic was to help those in need of assistance with the darker side of the spiritual realm, something that I myself have done and will do when a genuine case comes to my attention.

Q: What locations do you have on your wish list to investigate?

Ian: Where do I begin? It's a tough one that there's so many different locations I would love to investigate. But, I would say my top five are Poveglia Island, Sallie House, Newhams Park Asylum, Pendragon Castle, and Pendle Hill.

Q: What words of wisdom would you offer amateur ghost hunters investigating for the first time?

Ian: Always do your research, and take the time to debunk your evidence before you present it as evidence. Probably the most important part of paranormal investigation is to research.

By this I mean know exactly what constitutes something being classed as paranormal and what constitutes a false anomaly. There are so many natural occurrences and many photo anomalies that can look like you've got something paranormal, but it can often be explainable. It's always better to pick apart your own evidence than have someone else do it.

Q: What else should our readers know about you and your team?

Ian: We furiously debunk our evidence before we present it to the public. We may be believers, but we are what we like to call skeptical believers. Not everything is paranormal, and some things that seem spooky can quite often be explained away.

* * * * *

For more information about The Knights Templar Paranormal Order and Project Paranormal, visit: http://www.projectparanormalteam.com/ and https://www.facebook.com/SpiritumProductions/. ◆

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RESHAPING REALITY
While Living in an Alternate Universe

By Sean Casteel, spectralvision.wordpress.com

Everything we think we know about the world and the universe in which we live, whatever we have been led to believe concerning the course of human history, could very well be completely wrong and misinformed. There is a growing belief that some unseen — some unknown — intelligence or force may assist or, perhaps, hamper our daily existence and take away our free will.

Sci-fi writer Philip K. Dick's gift to mankind was his ability to show us alternate realities that may or may not be parallel to our own. Where did his insight come from? Who was the muse who helped Dick lead us to ways of seeing other worlds?

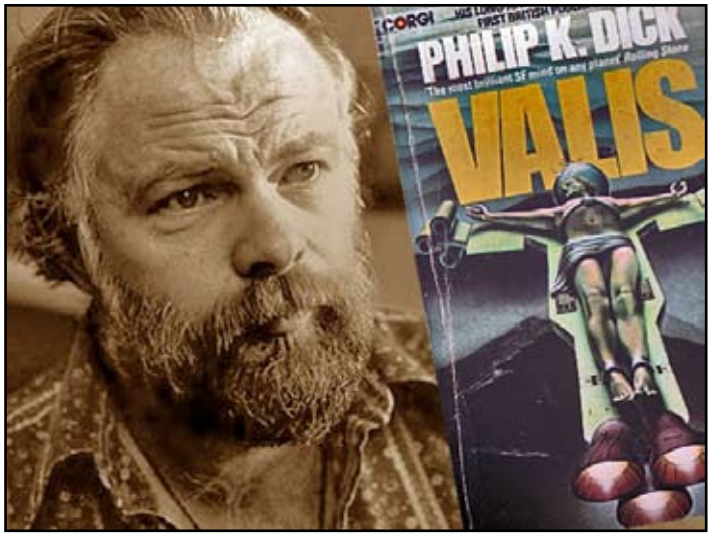
Dick said a kind of supernatural force entered his life and granted him the ability to live in two or more realities simultaneously.

It was Dick who first proposed the idea that what we call reality is really a computer simulation. As John Lennon wrote in "Strawberry Fields" ... "Nothing is real." The movie franchise *The Matrix* is based on Dick's ideas, though he never received any official credit for his concept from the film's producers.

Publisher and author Timothy Green Beckley has been experiencing synchronicity since childhood. Read his memoirs of meaningful synchronicities, both happy and sad, and his belief that we are all just prisoners enclosed in the matrix Dick posited.

If we accept the existence of the matrix, does that mean we can also escape it? Can we exert free will in spite of the unknowable complex nature of the machinery that generates our reality?

* * * * *



Pictured above: Philip K. Dick and the cover of his book *VALIS*, which was inspired by his contact experience with a stranger who appeared on his doorstep, a crucial moment that opened his eyes to the true nature of reality.

Philip K. Dick remains one of the most revered writers in the history of the science fiction genre. His books and stories have been translated to the big screen many times in such mega-hits as *Total Recall*, *Blade Runner*, and *The Adjustment Bureau*. Hipster director Richard Linklater did an animated version of *A Scanner Darkly* in 2006, and, as of this writing in 2017, Amazon is streaming its take on *The Man in the High Castle* in all of its postwar, topsy-turvy glory, as it posits an alternate history in which the Axis powers actually won the Second World War.

Dick is also said to have pioneered the concept behind the hit movie franchise *The Matrix*. Although never

Philip K. Dick often speculated that we all could be living in a "simulated reality."

officially credited by the filmmakers, it was Dick who first conjectured that what we think of as everyday reality, the reality where you knock on a table and feel it in your knuckles, is not reality at all. Instead, we live in a computer simulation of reality where the unseen puppet masters can bend us to their will at any time.

This theory, this concept, has grown in popularity in UFO and paranormal circles, due in large part to statements and research from the likes of Charles Fort (who thought we were like movable pieces on a giant chest board), UFO researcher Dr. Jacques Vallee, and seminal paranormal writer John A. Keel.

AUTHORS PHILIP K. DICK AND TIM BECKLEY SAY SYNCHRONICITIES ARE KEY TO TURNING THE MATRIX INSIDE OUT.

The programmers/overlords "playfully" make themselves known with moments of synchronicity, with meaningful coincidences that cannot possibly have happened by mere chance. Since our lives in the matrix are all we know, it is difficult to imagine escaping from the predestined existence that has been meted out to us.

Girding Up His Loins to Make War on 'Reality'

But Timothy Green Beckley doesn't quite agree with that dismal, hopeless perspective. Beckley believes, as perhaps a prisoner of war might, that it is his duty to at least try to set himself free from the arbitrary control of the program's designers. If we can imagine freedom from the matrix, does the mere act of imagining make it possible?

Such issues are dealt with, along with many others, in the recently published *The Matrix Control System of Philip K. Dick and the Paranormal Synchronicities of Timothy Green Beckley*. The title is rather long, as is the book itself, at nearly 450 pages. It is well-documented for a book on such an elusive subject and illustrated from cover to cover. Despite its length, it is written in an easy-to-comprehend, conversational style, with only minor references to more intellectually dense and complex figures, such as Carl Jung, whose concepts on synchronicity — even his most ardent students agree — can sometimes be difficult to follow.

The new book opens with an introduction by the late Dick's widow, Tessa Dick.

"Tim Beckley has a firm handle on the nature of the strange incidents that occurred in the life of my husband, Philip K. Dick," Tessa writes. "Whereas many writers have chosen the easy way out, offering explanations ranging from epilepsy to drug abuse, Beckley has dug deep into the story of Phil's life and unearthed evidence that such things really do happen to many people."

According to Tessa, her late husband often ques-

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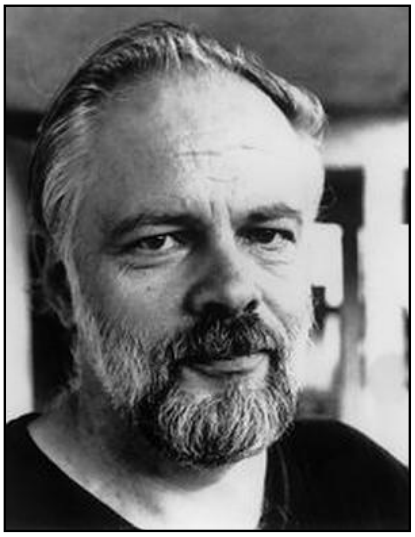
tioned his own sanity, a form of self-doubt, which, for those who experience synchronicity and the paranormal, seems to come with the territory.

"He told stories for a living, and he told stories for fun. He took the little anomalies of our world and spun them into alternative realities," Tessa writes. "He also warned us of the police state in which we live. The Nazis won World War II, and the Empire never ended. We must wake up and see the world as it is, not as the media present it to us. Behind the propaganda, this world is all about control."



Philip K. Dick is now thought of as one of the most influential of all modern-day sci-fi novelists and short story authors.

A Life-Changing Knock on the Door

The "strange incidents" that Tessa mentions above include one that I write about in the *The Matrix Control System of Philip K. Dick*: "The visionary mysticism that would come to dominate Philip K. Dick's final years began in 1974, with a visit from the local drugstore. It is a pivotal moment in Dick's personal history and has been much written about and analyzed after the fact."

Dick had recently been to see the dentist about an impacted wisdom tooth. The procedure included a dose of sodium pentothal. Next, a young woman delivered a bottle of Darvon tablets to Dick at his apartment in Fullerton, California. She was wearing a necklace with a pendant of a golden fish, an ancient Christian symbol that had been adopted by the Jesus counterculture movement of the late 1960s.

The fish pendant began to emit a golden ray of light, and Dick suddenly experienced what is called "anamnesis," the recollection of the entire sum of knowledge. It is also called "intellectual intuition," the direct perception by the mind of a metaphysical reality behind the screens of appearance. Dick had seen the ultimate nature of what he called "true reality."

In the following days and weeks, Dick would see psychedelic visions with phantasmagorical light shows. He also heard "voices' and had prophetic dreams. These phenomena would continue until his death eight years later at the age of 53.

After the 1974 experience with the pendant and his sudden awakening, Dick dedicated the rest of his life to understanding what it all meant. Dick wrote a lengthy, 8,000-page analysis of the events called *Exegesis*, what he called "an attempt to understand my own understanding."

That understanding would lead Dick to practice a form of Christianity called Gnosticism, which *New York Times* columnist Simon Critchley, in writing about Dick's conversion, called "the worship of an alien God by those alienated from the world."

Dick believed that he, along with the rest of us, was living simultaneously in the present day and the time of the first Christians in Rome. The political and economic structure of our modern world is really the BIP, or Black Iron Prison, which is opposed to the spiritual redemption offered by the PTG, or Palm Tree Garden. This is again a belief heavily influenced by the Gnostics, many of whom held that the physical, material world is really the creation of the God of Evil and that we await salvation from an "alien" God, a true "extraterrestrial," not bound up in the wickedness and oppression on our planet's surface.

At one point, Dick's voices and visions drove him to attempt suicide, and he was placed in a mental hospital.

"When I believe, I am crazy," he wrote. "When I don't believe, I suffer psychotic depression."

But elsewhere Dick says more optimistically, "I experienced an invasion of my mind by a transcendentally rational mind, as if I had been insane all my life and suddenly I had become sane."

There is, of course, the tritely familiar expression that there is a fine line between genius and insanity. Philosophers have also argued that there is a fine line between madness and genuine religious experience. Could Dick's "alien God" truly free us from the matrix? Did Dick mark a path to freedom that we might one day follow?

The Strange Ups and Downs of Synchronicity

The second part of the new book's title is *The Paranormal Synchronicities of Timothy Green Beckley*, which Beckley's chapters deliver on big time.

As a memoirist of meaningful coincidence, Beckley has few, if any equals. His experiences with synchronicity began in his childhood and continue to the present day. His life is saturated with moments that he believes force him to acknowledge the invisible maker of all things in the matrix.

Sometimes the stories are lighthearted, like the time Beckley was working for a porn magazine to make ends meet and got the idea to hold a contest in which the prize was a porn star's panties. Of the 200 or so entries received, the winner turned out to be a New York City cab

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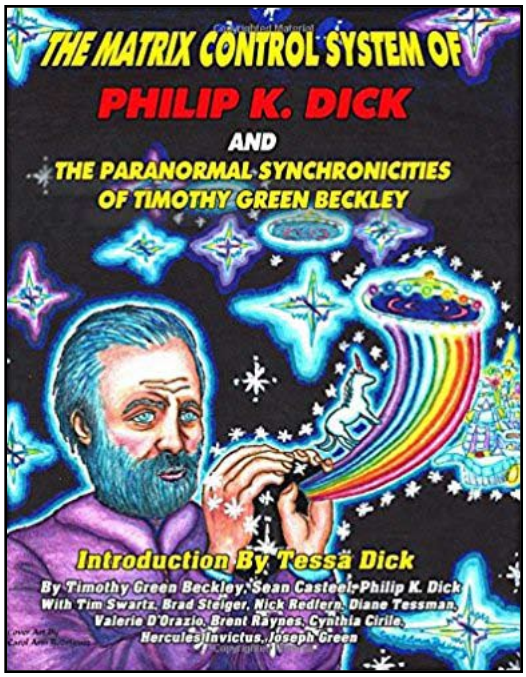
CREEPY CRATE
BY THE LINEUP

driver. The cabbie visited the magazine's office in Times Square and was photographed receiving his prize, after which the hack left for home with his newfound treasure.

"Never figured I would have the opportunity to run into him again," Beckley writes. "Why would I?"

Four years later, Beckley was out roaming the city rather late at night when he heard a horn honk and a yellow vehicle pulled over to the curb in front of him. It was a taxi, driven by the same man who had won the star's panties.

"With a beaming smile," Beckley writes, "he points to the rearview mirror and there, hanging where all his out-of-town passengers can see, are the porn star's most intimate apparel. She was really touched when I told her about my meeting up with the lucky grand prize winner. I guess you can say that some synchronicities are more personal than others. Sometimes the matrix does share an intimate — or intimidating — moment with us all."


THE MATRIX CONTROL SYSTEM OF
PHILIP K. DICK
AND
THE PARANORMAL SYNCHRONICITIES
OF TIMOTHY GREEN BECKLEY
Introduction By Tessa Dick
By Timothy Green Beckley, Sean Casteel, Philip K. Dick
With Tim Swartz, Brad Steiger, Nick Redfern, Diane Tessman,
Valerie D'Orazio, Brent Raynes, Cynthia Cirile,
Hercules Invictus, Joseph Green

Synchronized With Tragedy

Perhaps one of the "intimidating" moments of Beckley's experiences with the matrix would involve Philip K. Dick and an Episcopal clergyman named Bishop James Pike. In 1966, Pike performed the wedding ceremony for Dick and his fourth wife, Nancy Herbert.

Pike was himself an anomaly. He was under fire from the church for what were considered at the time to be "radical" views, like the ordination of women to the priesthood, racial desegregation, and the acceptance of LGBT people within the mainline churches. Pike also had controversial opinions on the Virgin Birth, the Second Coming of Jesus, and other basic church doctrines.

A few months before the bishop officiated at Dick's wedding, Pike's son committed suicide. The young man had been residing in a single room in a hotel off Broadway in midtown Manhattan. He had been depressed, using drugs, and just couldn't take it anymore.

A friend of Beckley's, a woman named Sandra, whose family lived in an apartment next door to young Pike's, said the condition of the room had been "messy" in the aftermath of Pike's use of a handgun to take his own life.

"But I didn't realize," Beckley said, "until I spoke to Sandra recently, that I had slept in the very room where the tragic event had taken place."

The room had eventually been merged with the apartment rented by Sandra's family ,and Beckley had stayed there many times. But no one had ever told him about the history of Room 429.

There is a lot more to the story Beckley has to tell about Dick, Pike, and Pike's son, events that would come to involve a well-known spiritualist and medium named the Reverend Arthur Ford, as well as Diamond Jim Brady, the dapper man-about-town of the early 20th century. One should read the new book for the full story, as Beckley recounts a chain of events that is both amazing and nightmarish but which cannot be briefly summed up in the space allotted for this article.

Transcending the Matrix

The Matrix Control System of Philip K. Dick and the Paranormal Synchronicities of Timothy Green Beckley also offers contributions from an excellent cast of paranormal writers and researchers, to include Tim Swartz, Brad Steiger, Nick Redfern, Diane Tessman, Valerie D'Orazio, Brent Raynes, Cynthia Cirile, Hercules Invictus, and Joseph Green.

The various authors discuss their own experiences with synchronicity, as well as provide an overview of some of the "real-world" factors that support Dick's concept that our reality has been preprogrammed by computer "designers" we can barely conceive of as existing, let alone claim to understand.

Our existence means something. It is important to us, even if we live in a mechanized contrivance that is to some extent basically indifferent to our struggles and hardships. Perhaps, by coming to understand what synchronicity really is, we will be taking that first step to a truly free form of consciousness that transcends the matrix entirely. Timothy Green Beckley, for one, certainly hopes so.

Suggested Reading

- *The Matrix Control System of Philip K. Dick and the Paranormal Synchronicities of Timothy Green Beckley*
- *Time Travel: Fact Not Fiction* by Commander X and Tim Swartz
- *Matrix of the Mind* by Beckley and Swartz ◆

New from *Paranormal Underground* columnist

Karen Frazier

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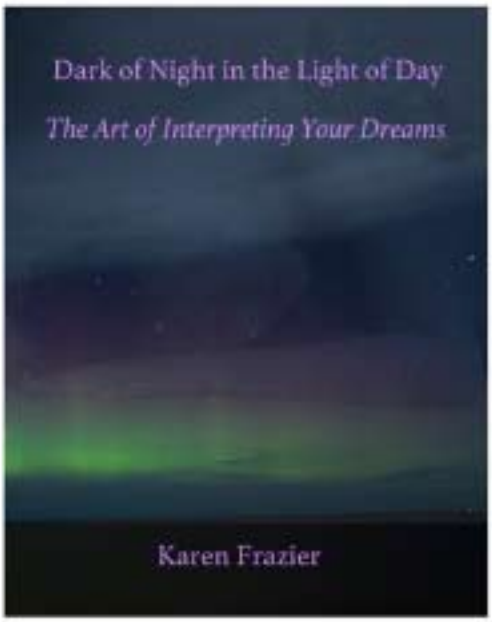

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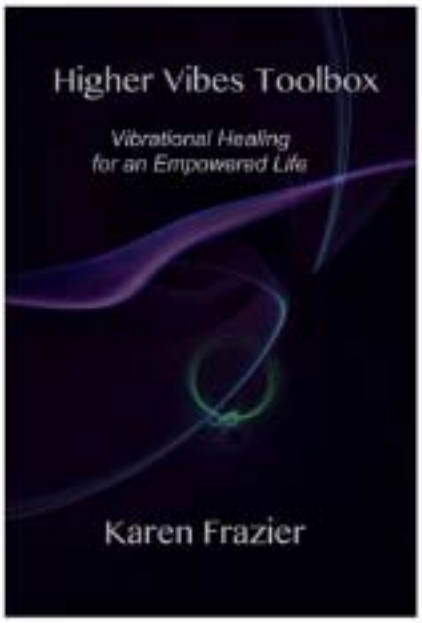
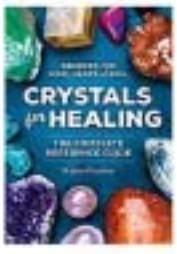
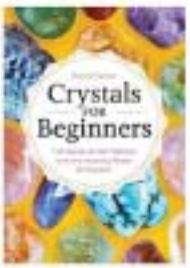


Also by Karen





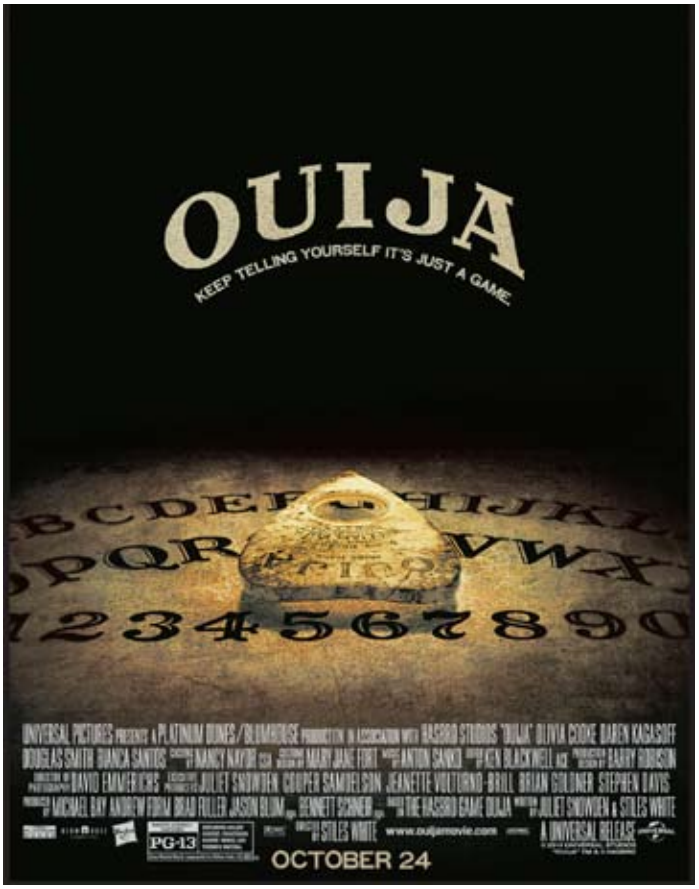
AuthorKarenFrazier.com

8 Creepy Ouija Board Movies

By DeAnna Janes via the-line-up.com

If you've ever used a Ouija board to communicate with the other side, then you know the rules: 1) Take it seriously, 2) Always say goodbye once you're done chatting up the dead, and 3) Never play in your own home.

We'd like to add this suggestion to the list: Skip the séance and watch these Ouija board movies instead. That way, it's their funeral — not yours.



1. Ouija

A group of friends investigate the sinister depths of the spirit world via an ancient spirit board in this 2014 flick. With a solid lead from Olivia Cooke and Blumhouse Productions conjuring the scares, Ouija makes for an eerie watch.

Extra bonus? Mike Flanagan (*Hush*) directed a sequel, *Ouija: Origin of Evil*, in 2016 that may be even scarier.

2. What Lies Beneath

This Robert Zemeckis gem follows Claire, played by Michelle Pfeiffer, as she investigates the ghost that haunts her Nantucket-style house. How does one go about unlocking the mysteries of the dead? With a séance, of course. Queue the Ouija scene — and major chills.

3. Paranormal Activity

Orem Peli's first entry into what is by now a relentless franchise (please stop) centers on the demonic haunting of a young couple. A spirit board makes an appearance, though we're not entirely sure if the cardboard portal is essential to the creeper's plot.

In either case, the Ouija stars in one spooky scene: board, planchette, mysterious fire — that's all we're going to say.

4. Witchboard

Video vixen Tawny Kitaen takes up the planchette in this supernatural thriller from 1986. Kitaen plays Linda, a woman obsessed with finding out the identity of the

malignant spirit masquerading as a 10-year-old boy named David. Trust us, it's scarier than the teased hairdos that haunted the decade.

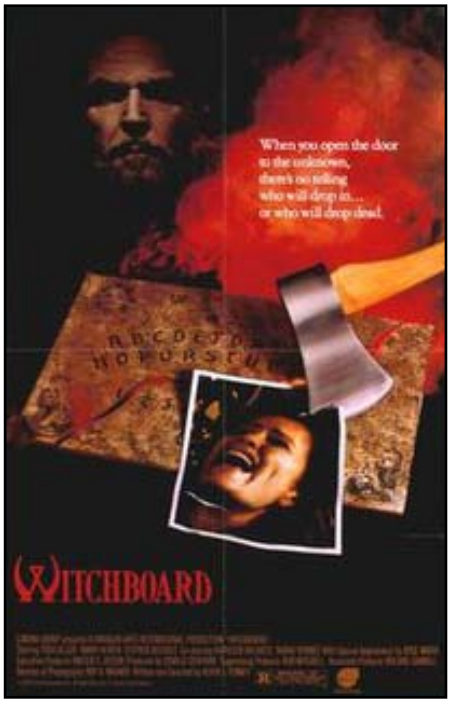
5. The Pact

This eerie indie about a woman who communicates with the dead to find her missing sister doubles as a spirit board instructable. Step 1) Light a candle, Step 2) Grab a Sharpie and get to alphabetting on the ground, and Step 3) Say your prayers. *The Pact* is currently available on Netflix.

6. The Exorcist

Here's another flick where Ouija has more of a cameo than a starring role; you see it at the beginning of the film, when Reagan and her mother conduct a seemingly innocent conversation with Captain Howdy in the basement.

According to the annals of the Internet, William Friedkin's unholy blockbuster marks a turning point in the board's reputation, going from silly parlor trick to the Devil's mouthpiece.



7. Sorority House Massacre 2: Nighty Nightmare

There's no way around it: This movie is schlock. But sometimes watching a bunch of buxom idiots in lacy underthings get slaughtered by the evil spirit they summoned via a late-night Ouija board session is just what the witch doctor ordered. Sorry; not sorry.

8. The Uninvited

Lewis Allen's paranormal tale of homeowners grappling with the specters of the past takes place at a brooding seaside mansion. Perhaps the characters were afraid to damage their old estate by scrawling the alphabet across its floor; a wineglass and some Scrabble pieces serve as their makeshift spirit board.

Regardless, this 1944 flick serves up the chills despite its age. In fact, it's one of the first Hollywood films to portray paranormal activity as a genuine event rather than a ruse or some comedic misunderstanding. ◆

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PRESTON CASTLE

The History and Hauntings of Ione, California's Legendary Landmark

By Nicole Strickland, SanDiegoParanormalResearch.com

As a passionate history buff and paranormal researcher, I have my "Top 10 Places I Want to Visit" list always at the forefront. When Tim Ferry of the Preston Castle Spirits Team officially invited me to speak about the RMS Queen Mary at the castle's 3rd Annual Benefit ParaCon, I was able to achieve one of my personal lifelong goals of visiting Ione, California's beautifully iconic Preston School of Industry (Preston Castle).

Having driven from San Diego for the conference, Ali Schreiber, her friend Natalie, and I inched closer to our Northern California destination in the late afternoon hours of August 27, 2017, completely in awe of the serene beauty of the area's rolling hills and sporadic trees. Once we arrived with our hearts beating wild with anticipation, we were finally able to see a glimpse of the castle's clock tower as it ominously rose high above the grounds.

"There it is!" Ali exclaimed as butterflies swirled about our stomachs. After a short stint driving through the charming town of Ione, we came upon the majestic hill that houses Preston Castle, one of the most picturesque and exquisitely constructed buildings I have ever seen. It was almost as if its expansive historical narrative flashed before my eyes — and soul — as we stood there staring at the unforgettable structure in total amazement at the thousands of stories seeping through its walls.

There are certain nostalgic edifices standing today that continue to share their historical tapestry via the veils of time. Preston Castle is one of those sites, with its soul brimming with energy and desire to keep its past pulsating in the present. The castle has a mysterious and uncanny way of drawing people into its allure. When I initially glimpsed it stoically standing upon its stately hill, I was overcome with emotion, as tears of happiness and sadness poured down my face. In that memory-engrained moment, I thought about the thousands of individuals who perused its walls, some who sadly didn't make it out alive and, perhaps, continue to spiritually reside there in the present.

The kitchen at Preston Castle where the San Diego Paranormal Research Society team conducted a group ITC session. The name "Paul" kept coming through.

The History of Preston Castle

The construction of the Preston School of Industry commenced in the 1890s, with final completion in 1894. It started as a progressive action for reforming and rehabilitating troubled youth and juvenile offenders, ranging from the ages of eight to 21-year-olds.

On June 13, 1894, the first seven wards were allowed to reside at the facility, with its official opening occurring on July 1 of the same year.

During this time, some boys would go to Folsom or San Quentin prisons. Now, you have to consider how

Visitors to Preston Castle might experience a wide range of paranormal phenomena, including visual sightings, disembodied vocalizations, orb activity, and other occurrences involving the olfactory and tactile senses.

crimes back in those days vastly differed from the more cynical offenses of today. For example, a boy was sentenced to eight years of confinement at the facility for merely stealing camellias out of a woman's yard! Then, there were boys committing other misdeeds, such as escape or physically injuring, or murdering, staff members, as you will read more about in the coming paragraphs.

Historical records note that the Whittier State School's name was changed to the Fred C. Nelles Youth Correctional Facility (School for Boys) in 1941 and eventually closed its doors in 2004.

Tragically, during the years when the Depression ran rampant, some younger males were literally dropped off at Preston, as their families were not able to afford taking care of them. When the majestic site was built, it initially accommodated wards along with staff and management. At its height, the Preston School of Industry had 1,000 acres. Once it grew, the main building purely served administrative purposes, with its rooms being re-purposed to allow for changing needs.

I have to sincerely thank both Preston Castle Spirits' Team Members Ryan Mick and Anna Fantasia for taking the time out of their busy schedules during the ParaCon to give me an overview history lesson on the castle. Their knowledge of Preston's historical narrative is nothing short of impressive and admirable.

As Anna guided me through its museum currently situated in the administration section, I was amazed at all the ways the Preston School of Industry aided these boys in military style by teaching them how to learn new trades and be self-sufficient. Furthermore, Anna went into detail regarding the administration building, which is where the superintendents and staff worked and ate. She also mentioned that the annex was constructed for the care and housing of the boys, erected four years after the castle officially opened its doors. Many of the early Preston Castle artifacts are on display in the museum. Once you lay eyes on these items, you get a better idea of what life was like for the boys at the historical landmark.

GUESTS HAVE BEEN CARESSED OR HAD THEIR CLOTHING TUGGED ON BY UNSEEN HANDS.

According to Anna, the Preston Republic was active for only a short period of time — in the majority of the institution's history, the boys were monitored and not self-governing. Many had to be monitored by the officers of the school, and if you were getting into trouble, you would be in the disciplinary group. And if you didn't obey in that group, you would end up in solitary confinement.

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During its investigation of Preston Castle, the SDPRS team and others witnessed humanoid shadow forms in the hallway leading to the basement.

The Honor Cottages were used for the well-behaved wards, those who were getting ready for parole and working toward completing their trade school education. Once outside Preston, these particular boys could seek employment.

With the exception of those who attempted escape, the boys lived in cottages according to their specified trade and spent a half day in class and the other half attending to their learned skills. All in all, there were about 15 to 20 crafts the residents could choose from. These included agriculture, farming, cooking, clothes and shoe-making, and carpentry, among others.

Anna pointed out a unique tidbit of history while she explained some of the remaining artifacts that are still on display today inside Preston's museum: The bottom of the boys' shoes had a "V"-shaped impression so the staff was able to distinguish the direction a ward was walking or running by the shoe imprints on the ground. I also learned that a few celebrities, such as Merle Haggard, stayed at the institution. Haggard was incarcerated at Preston in 1953.

Tragically, at least 23 wards were known to have passed away at the Preston School of Industry. Four were fatally shot while attempting escape, and three staff members were murdered, with suspicion that one passed away from an assault. Many of the deceased wards are buried in nearby cemeteries.

There is 60-plus years of history alone just with Preston's administration building. One of the most striking pieces of historical narrative concerning Preston Castle has to do with Superintendent Dr. Edward Stephen O'Brien and his tyrannical reputation of being abusive toward the male wards. Sadly, this oppressive rule lasted throughout many ensuing years even after the departure of O'Brien.

In the 1940s, the architect determined that the castle was no longer safe in the event of a fire or an earthquake. Thus, it was recommended that everyone leave its confines and have a continuation of the Preston School of Industry assembled on its expansive land.

By 1955, all of the wards were out of the castle, and many of them constructed nearby honor cottages on the surrounding terrain. Then, in 1960, the last two departments left, and the castle was closed and slated for demolition. People from town and local areas came in and took items from the castle, such as wainscoting, slate roofs, etc. — which resulted in water pouring into the property and leaving a debris chute.

Two women, Mrs. Kaup and Mrs. Winter, took up the charge to save the castle and managed to make it one of the California National Landmarks. The governor signed paperwork to have the castle remain standing and not be demolished. The stipulation was that if it fell of its own accord, people could not re-build it. The Preston Castle Foundation, which now owns the castle and colonial building (honor cottage), continues the renovation process, thus, lessening the chances of it falling into disrepair. Many volunteers donate their time to repair, give historical and paranormal tours, and work the yearly fundraisers, such as the Halloween Haunt, to raise money for restoration and repairs.

Paranormal Activity at Preston Castle

As we know, history and the paranormal share a deep kinship. You really cannot have a lot of supernatural activity without a lot of historical chronicles. Many people who have visited Preston over the years have remarked that it seems to be alive with energy. Of course, throughout the years, I have heard about the many claims of spiritual activity at the castle from those who have visited its premises.

Now that I have officially been able to set foot inside its confines, I do believe that the building is paranormally active. In my opinion, I do feel that there is a mixture of residual or psychically imprinted energy, as well as intelligent ethereal entities that are curiously inclined and desire to communicate with the living. Guests can experience a wide range of ghostly encounters, ranging from visual sightings, disembodied vocalizations, orb activity, and other occurrences involving the olfactory and tactile senses.

According to the Castle Spirits Team, the smells of pipe smoke and freshly baked warm apple pie can infiltrate the rooms at any given moment. Guests have also been caressed and/or have had their clothing tugged on by unseen hands. Furthermore, paranormal researchers and visitors are able to capture Class A EVP and disembodied vocalizations on their audio or video recorders.

As a paranormal researcher, I often combine my intuition with both metaphysical and scientific tools. It is my belief that all of us can be intuitively inclined; it's similar to a sport in that the more you practice, the better you will get. Sometimes, I will only get a general physical attribute of a spirit, while other times, my mind's perception of someone is so spot-on that I can almost clairvoyantly see descriptive physical traits in my mind. This was the case with Billy, one of the wards at Preston.

When I finally got a hold of the boy's historical photograph for the first time, I nearly gasped, as my mental image of Billy nearly matched the picture. It is my hope that he, as well as all of Preston's spiritual residents, has found peace. Perhaps I can communicate with Billy the next time I visit the castle and learn about his times there. In many ways, I feel that a historical site communicates about its historical fabric through its paranormal activity.

SDPRS co-directors Ali Schreiber (left) and Nicole Strickland (right) encountered a wide range of paranormal phenomena while investigating Preston Castle.

During the August 27 evening ghost investigation, our particular group captured an intelligent disembodied voice up in the infirmary. On our way up to Northern California, Ali came up with a brilliant idea to buy comic books to utilize as a trigger object during our research. Back in those early days, the boys didn't have televisions at their fingertips, so they most likely read various comic books.

As Ali walked around and placed a book on each hospital bed, she echoed the words, "We hope you enjoy these." About two seconds after she said those words, I audibly heard a male voice say, "Thank you." I mentioned this to the other people in our group, as well as our wonderful docents, and no one else heard the words. One of the Castle Spirits Team members was recording audio in the vicinity of where I heard the "thank you" and was able to capture the response; thus, indicating an audible voice phenomenon or disembodied voice.

While situated in the infirmary, I saw a full-bodied apparition near one of the hospital beds. Not able to make out any facial features, I did notice that this entity was wearing black pants and a white shirt. Was this the apparition that audibly thanked Ali for the comic books?

When we were down in the basement area conducting our vigil and experimentation, Ali and I both saw humanoid shadow forms moving about the location. It almost resembled the scene at Waverly Hills Sanatorium, which is known for its shadow form phenomena. We even heard disembodied vocalizations coming from the vicinity of our visual sightings. Furthermore, we had some intriguing encounters while conducting a collective Instrumental Trans Communication (ITC) session in the kitchen area. Intuitively, I kept sensing the presence of a boy who wanted to communicate with the group. Several times, we heard the name "Paul" and "Paulie" emanate from a Radio Shack Hack AM/FM scanner designed to be used as a ghost box.

Both Ali and I are still reviewing the hours of audio and video we recorded during our Friday night investigation.

The Preston School of Industry retired its doors in 1960, when the management moved into new structures. With its expansive land still in use today, the Preston Youth Authority closed in 2011. The main building then existed as a vacant site and fell into ruins until good news was received on September 10, 2001. You see, the Preston Castle Foundation garnered a 50-year lease for the property. Furthermore, the building has also achieved its title as California State Historical Landmark #867, as well as being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is so vital to keep history alive in our present times. The Preston Castle Foundation and its devoted volunteers are working their magic in preserving the structure and its deeply woven historical narrative. Both historical and paranormal tours are available, with all proceeds benefiting the ongoing restoration of the building.

The entire site seems to evoke a sense of satisfaction and pride in that it's being well taken care of. It seems to know that its volunteers are dedicated to not only keeping its legacy alive, but making sure it receives the renovation it so well deserves.

For more information about the Preston School of Industry, please visit http://www.prestoncastle.com/index.html. ◆

Werewolves and Lycanthropy

By Matty Sweeney, @macabremarvelswithmatty

In a Greek mythological story, Arcadian King Lycaon wanted to see if the supreme god Zeus was all-knowing, so he murdered a small child and served the roasted, dismembered pieces on a dish to the Olympian ruler. A furious Zeus, upon discovering the ruse, turned Lycaon into a wolf and killed his 50 sons with lightning bolts, restoring the slaughtered child to life. This story is said to be an origin tale of a now worldly-known mythological creature, one that has permeated through the legends and fairy tales of many cultures, especially European folklore.

Since medieval times, the concept or idea of the werewolf — said to be a man with the ability to shapeshift into a wolf/human hybrid after being placed under a curse or being bitten by another werewolf — has terrified generations of people all over the world. From movies in the 20th century, such as *Werewolf of London*, *The Howling* and its numerous sequels, and *An American Werewolf in London*, the creature has been depicted as being of a malevolent nature and needing to satisfy a thirst for human blood.

In more recent times, the creature has been depicted in more heroic or romantic roles, such as characters from the television series *True Blood* and *Twilight* and the *Underworld* series of films, who are all able to be more "in control" of their wolf selves and instincts.

Have Werewolves Ever Existed?

However, do werewolves exist, or have they existed at one point? And what is the reality of such creatures, away from the stories attributed to it in pop culture?

In some ways, the werewolf perhaps did exist. For example, in the Scandinavian Viking Age, the first king of Norway, Harald I, was said to have had an army of men who wore wolf coats. They were called the Úlfhednar, and were said to be vicious in their killings — some attributing their victories due to the possibility they were "channeling" the spirits of wolves in order to enhance their effectiveness in battle.

During the 14th and 15th centuries, accusations of werewolvery became just as common as accusations of witchcraft, and the two have become entwined together since then, as it was believed the two (witches and werewolves) were agents of Satan.

On October 31, 1859, a German farmer was executed after a trial lasting many months, which was one of the most famous werewolf trials in European history. His name was Peter Stumpp (or something similar), and he was a well-respected, wealthy farmer in his local community. However, he had hidden a dark secret, one that came out after hours of relentless torture inflicted upon being caught.

Stumpp is said to have confessed that when he was 12, he began practicing black magic and one day apparently successfully managed to summon the Devil himself. He further claimed the Dark One gave him a "magic belt" that allowed him to change into "the likeness of a greedy, devouring wolf, strong and mighty, with eyes great and large, which in the night sparkled like fire, a mouth great and wide, with most sharp and cruel teeth, a huge body, and mighty paws."

ARE SOME MEN REALLY ABLE TO TRANSFORM AND SHAPESHIFT INTO GIANT BIPEDAL WOLVES?

Since that fateful day, it was said that over the next two decades Stumpp became known as the "Werewolf of Bedburg" and was responsible for the gorging of flesh of a number of animals and humans. He finally confessed to the murders of 14 children and two pregnant women and their fetuses. He also killed his own young son.

He was charged with murder, incest, and cannibalism, and along with his teenage daughter (who had also been his lover) was sentenced to death. He was put on a breaking wheel (a torture device used for capital punishment during the Middle Ages), and flesh was torn from his body. Several limbs were broken with the blunt side of an axehead, and then he was decapitated.

He was not the first so-called werewolf to be executed during the next few years, and perhaps was one of the first to be labeled with the condition called lycanthropy.

What Is Lycanthropy?

Lycanthropy is the name given to the mythical condition of supernatural origin where a man can physically transform, or shapeshift, into a wolf. Clinical Lycanthropy, however, is a psychiatric disorder that involves delusions that the sufferer has, or will, or is, a non-human animal. It is very rare, and the disorder is believed to be a "cultural manifestation" of schizophrenia, as many of the symptoms, including delusions and hallucinations, fit the DSM-IV Criteria for schizophrenic behavior.

Strangely, the condition is not only limited to delusions of being a canine-like animal, such as a wolf or dog. In some instances, sufferers are transforming into cats, hyenas, foxes, horses, birds, and insects. On rare occasions, reports have been made of patients claiming to be multiple animals at different times, and sometimes reports of an "unspecified" animal are made.

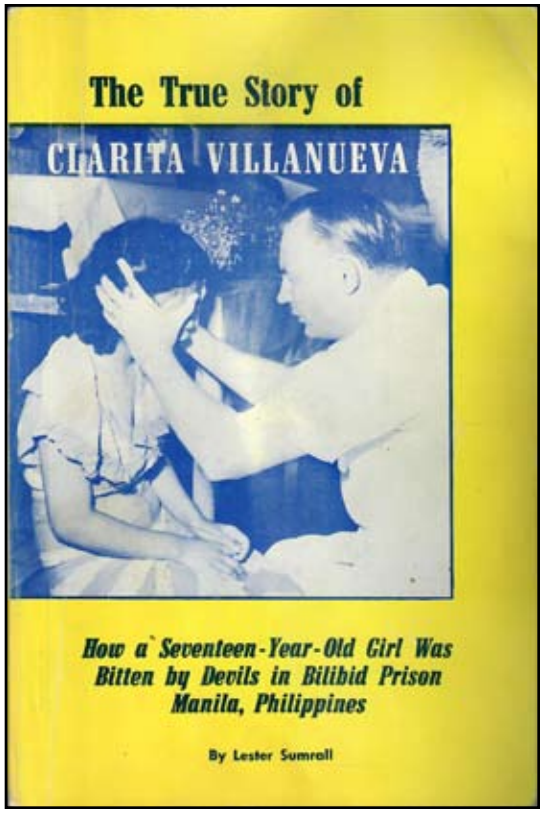
This, however, has not stopped many accounts, especially over the last century or so, of people having encounters with real-life wolf-men or werewolves. Many of these reports are made in North America, but can these accounts be just the result of the observation of possibly an abnormally sized wolf or canine? Or are some men really able to transform and shapeshift into giant bipedal wolves with a bloodthirsty appetite? ◆

THE EXORCISM OF Clarita Villanueva

By John Young, hubpages.com/@jy3502

When it comes to the paranormal, occult, and cases of demon possession, there are three groups of people ... believers, skeptics, and those that simply don't know. However, there have been documented cases of demon possession observed by credible witnesses. Although it is a rare phenomenon, it happens more often than people realize.

Take the case of Clarita Villanueva, a 17-year-old Philippine girl in Manila. Her father had either deserted the family or was dead. In either case, Clarita did not remember him. Her mother practiced fortune telling and spiritism. Although she didn't believe in any of it, it was a way to make money. The girl was raised watching her mother holding séances, communicating with the dead, and predicting the future for clients.


The True Story of
CLARITA VILLANUEVA
How a Seventeen-Year-Old Girl Was Bitten by Devils in Bilibid Prison Manila, Philippines
By Lester Sumrall

But, at the age of 12, Clarita's mother died, leaving her to wander the streets and fend for herself. Shortly after, local prostitutes took her in and taught her how to make a living. When she was a few years older, she moved to Manila where her business would be better.

In the early morning of May 10, 1951, Clarita made the mistake of soliciting an undercover police officer. She was arrested and taken to the more than 300-year-old Bilibid Prison, which was being used as the city jail. Several days following her incarceration, Clarita began screaming she was being attacked and bitten. When the jailer arrived, he saw welts and eight sets of teeth marks on her arms, legs, and neck. The policeman concluded the prisoner may have been able to inflict the injuries to her arms, but there was no way she could've bitten the back of her neck or legs.

Clarita began screaming again and hysterically claiming "the thing" was coming. The perplexed officer unlocked the cell and led her into the hall. He watched in horror as some unseen entity inflicted more teeth marks on her upper arm and shoulders ... complete with saliva. The frightened officer ran to inform his superiors.

Soon afterwards medics and the chief of police arrived. The wounded girl was escorted to the prison clinic for treatment. The doctors were astounded and said they had never seen anything like it before. When they asked Clarita to describe what had happened, she said it resembled a man wearing a loose black cape, only with large bulging eyes and was floating in the air.

The next morning, Clarita was taken to court to face charges when once again she screamed "the thing" was back and biting her again. Two strong policemen seized her while reporters, police, and the medical examiner watched in disbelief as teeth marks sank deep into her arms, hands, and neck. This assault lasted about five minutes during which time Clarita fainted. The medical

officer examined Clarita and announced, "These bites are genuine. And they are not self inflicted!" The mayor was immediately summoned.

By the time Clarita regained consciousness, the mayor had arrived. The bites on her arms and hands were severely swollen and bruised. As the Mayor and medical examiner accompanied her back to the prison clinic, Clarita shrieked "the thing" was back, but this time accompanied by another smaller bug-eyed creature. The mayor later testified teeth marks appeared on both sides of her throat, index finger, and hand ... while he held it!

> "These bites are genuine. And they are not self inflicted!"

Clarita later described the larger of the two entities as being black and hairy with fangs and a set of buck-teeth. The doctors verified her description by the teeth marks. The smaller one was described as dwarflike.

One skeptical doctor accused her of putting on an act for sympathy. Clarita solemnly stared and stoically stated, "You will die." The following day, for no obvious reasons, he did die. Rumors spread like wildfire that Clarita was a witch who could cast spells and place curses.

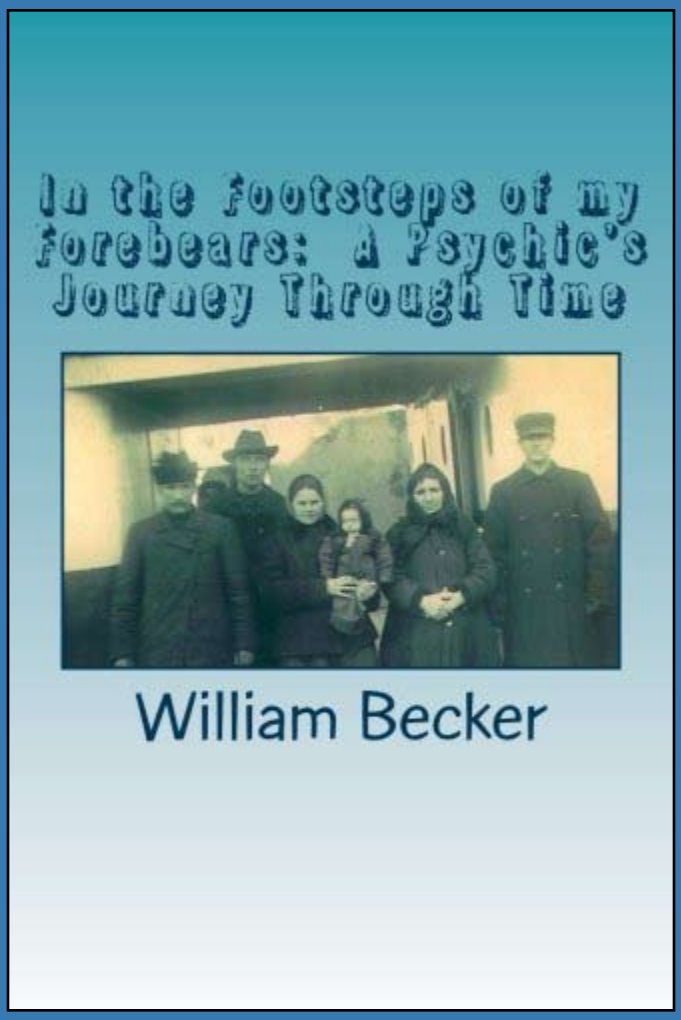
The chief jailer had also had a confrontation with the girl, kicking her for something she had done wrong. Clarita glared coldly at him and once again said: "You will die!" Within four days, he too was dead.

The biting had now become a daily occurrence. At a loss to explain the phenomenon, the prison physician sought help. Doctors and other professionals from various countries came to offer their assistance. It wasn't long before the news media were sending reporters to investigate, and the story was soon heralded in front page news around the globe.

In desperation, the archbishop was contacted who dispatched a noted exorcist and theologian. Clarita was brought before a large group of reporters, professors, and doctors. As she was led into the room, she singled out the exorcist and screamed: "I hate you!" He replied, "I know you hate me. I have come to cast you out."

That was the beginning of a long, drawn-out, three-day battle with the girl screaming, hurling obscenities, and blaspheming the entire time. Finally, she became calm and declared, "He's gone."

Strangely, once back in the hospital, the attacks ceased. She was released six weeks later. Clarita still has the bite marks, testifying to one of the strangest, unexplained possession cases in history.◆



In the Footsteps of My Forebears: A Psychic's Journey Through Time

By William Becker

Available Now at:

https://www.createspace.com/7451789

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MY FOREBEARS:

A Psychic's Journey Through Time

By William Becker, ParanormalInsights.net

I had the good fortune to take the trip of a lifetime that I had always dreamed of but never thought I'd be able to take. I was able to visit the village in the old country that my grandparents immigrated from in 1912.

My family is Volga German. In the 1760s, Catherine the Great of Russia sent an invitation to Germans to colonize an area in the Volga River area. My ancestors were among the first settlers. By 1912, things had changed. My grandfather was an astute man and saw what was happening in Russia, so he and my grandmother came to the U.S. to work, make some money to expand on their holdings in Russia, and let the Tsar get everything back under control. Well, we all know how well that worked out. My grandparents stayed here and raised their family.

Using my psychic senses, I can pick up on history as I travel.

My grandfather died while I was quite young. But my grandmother lived until I was well into my 20s and was with us often. I used to go over, and she'd tell stories of the old country. She would talk fondly of life there and loved talking about her family. I grew up on the stories of a Russia very different from the one we reads about in the history books. Her family was rich, and she had opportunities that most men didn't have, let alone women.

Ever since I was young, I wanted to go and see the places she spoke of. Finally, a tour of the Volga German area was put together. I signed up immediately. The tour included the village of my grandparents!

We spent several days going through many villages on dirt roads, and I learned a great deal of the history of the Volga Germans and, to a lesser extent, the Germans in general who had called Russia home since the time of Peter the Great. Parts of this journey were very emotional, and we learned more about 30 years of genocide directed at my people. The genocide started in 1915.

I'm fortunate in that I can not only experience the locations and their history through the normal senses, I also pick up these things with my psychic senses. This helps me bring the history and people to life in a whole new way. A greater depth of experience and understanding of the individuals, the times, the places, and the history unfold before me. My experience has a richness that it wouldn't have otherwise.

I was able to pick up the joys and sorrows of the people I "met." I could see the last Mass before the priests and ministers were deported or killed. Weddings, dances, celebrations opened before me. Workers walking down the street, men and women coming and going, bored people in church — all of this opened around me.

Most importantly, I was able to see my family. I saw Grandma's parents as they were in despair. I saw other relatives at their homes, and I finally got to tell my grandfather's wicked stepmother just what I thought of her. She started it though. She came flying out of the house screaming at me, because she knew I knew all about her from Grandma.

And, I saw Grandma on the stairs of the school she attended. She showed herself to me as a young girl and as I knew her. We had a beautiful conversation. I still tear up when I think of it. This journey was so rewarding that I wrote a book about it, which is available through a link on my website: http://paranormalinsights.net/.

Traveling with psychic abilities wide open is the only way to go for me. My experience is so much more complete and rewarding. I am very grateful for the ability and that I am able to work with others to open their own psychic abilities so that they too can enjoy the fullness of travel.◆

This is where I told off the wicked stepmother. She started it!

This is where Grandma's house used to stand. The dining room was the size of the entire house I grew up in.

The monument to the founding of the first Volga German colony.

This is where Grandma came to me, and we had a great conversation.

A priest stood on a balcony here giving a sermon and reading the Gospel. I see him. He knows it's the end.

A Formula for Creation

By Karen Frazier

You've probably heard of the law of attraction or the phrase "thoughts become things." The formula is simple. What you intend and pay attention to, you create. When you add deep emotion, the creation comes more quickly. This works both for the things you want and the things you don't want.

For example, if your intention is low but you are paying a lot of attention to poor health and feeling emotion surrounding that, the emotion plus the attention overrides the low intention and you get more of what you are emotionally thinking about. Your thoughts, emotion, and attention perpetuate poor health.

If your intention for a new job is high, but you pay it little attention or give it no emotion, chances are it will take a while for that job to manifest — if it does at all. If you intend for that new job and give it attention, but also continue to think about how impossible it is to get a decent job (usually with emotion), then chances are you are negating the intention. Instead, you need to set your intention for the new job, think positively about getting the new job, and catch the negativity before it sets in.

Here's another example. If your intention is for financial abundance, and every morning you visualize yourself financially abundant, but every time the subject of spending money or paying bills comes up you think *I can't possibly afford that*, you are negating your attention and perpetuating a lack of abundance. In this situation, however, you may notice the thought *I can't possibly afford that* makes you feel a negative emotion. So if you can't catch the thought, notice the emotion. When you notice the negative emotion, reset your thought and revisualize your goal of financial abundance. Do this consistently to set the wheels of creation into motion.

So what's the best way to manifest? Combine intention and attention. Set aside time each day to visualize that what you want, and do it with joy. State your intention clearly. Then, direct your thoughts to that intention and combine it with positive emotion.

To avoid unintended creation, throughout the day pay attention to any negative feelings that arise. When those feelings come up, it tells you your attention has slipped away from your intention, and you are creating something you don't intend. Notice those feelings and release them. Then, restate your intention, visualize your desired goal again, add in some positive emotion, and you're headed off in your intended direction instead of working at cross purposes to that which you wish to create.

Staying Positive When Problems Arise

Creating involves emotion and directed attention to that which you want. This is true regardless of whether you are creating something you want or something you don't want. So, when your thoughts are focused on

something negative (for example: *How am I going to pay my bills?* or *My health is so poor! I'm sick!*) and there is emotion behind those thoughts, you will attract and create more of the situation you don't want.

Setting a positive intention can help, but if you continue to think about these negative things, you send confusing signals to the Universe about that which you desire. So, if you are setting the intention, "I choose to be vibrantly healthy," but you continuously think about how sick you are, or if you set the intention, "I am financially prosperous," but continue to worry about how your bills will be paid, then your negative thoughts and focus are overriding (or at the very least cancelling) your positive intention.

Intention + Attention = Creation

When everything is going great and you're feeling positive, it seems pretty easy to set intention and focus positive thought and emotion to create, but what do you do when something negative happens or you are in a negative place? How do you direct positive emotion and thoughts when you're not feeling positive? How do you turn a situation around when what you perceive as your reality (being sick, being unable to pay your bills, etc.) is in direct conflict to your intention?

It's all about how you focus. If you continue to focus on the problem, then you are creating the energetic conditions to perpetuate the problem; you are calling it to you through your emotion and attention. To reverse this energy, focus instead on the solution. Visualize yourself with the problem solved. So instead of focusing on the belief or thought, *I am so sick — look at all the evidence pointing to how sick I am*, visualize yourself as being healthy and healed. Visualize yourself as being vibrant and whole. And when the inevitable thoughts of the problem arise again, take a moment, close your eyes, cancel that thought, and visualize the solution. Do this for just a moment every time the negative thought arises.

So when the thought arises, *I can't pay my bills*, for instance, every time you catch yourself worrying about how you are going to pay your bills or thinking something along the lines of, *I don't have the money for this*, stop and briefly visualize yourself easily paying your bills or with a bank account full of cash (or both).

Shift your focus from problem to solution, and do it consistently. When you combine this with your intention, you can begin to create that which you want instead of that which you don't.◆

Winter Balefire
Love Letters Destroyed
Love Letters Destroyed is Winter Balefire's first book of poetry now available at Amazon, Lulu, Barnes & Noble and all fine retailers that sell great books. Pick it up in eBook and signed paperback editions today!
Love Letters Destroyed is a collection of poetry representing all that is written and left unsaid. Sleepless nights, dark thoughts, and broken bits of sanity fill these pages. Each piece tells a story and each story will reveal every part of your psyche you've hidden from. Here you will find everything you've ever felt but have never said aloud.

Dream Interpretation: Fear in Dreams

By Karen Frazier

Dream #1

Dear Karen,

"I dreamed I was having a party in my backyard. While I was preparing for my party, there was a blue betta fish in an aquarium; it was a new fish, and it could talk. I put clear, clean water in the aquarium. The fish started to flop like it was dying, and the water was draining. I got more water and told the fish to hang on. When I came back, the water was full again, but a cat was in the water with the fish. The cat grabbed the fish, and it jumped out of the tank with the fish in its mouth. I got the fish from the cat and put it back in the tank. The fish told me it was OK.

"I put the cat outside in the backyard where the party was. I noticed the yard was overgrown and messy. Then I realized the door connecting our house to the neighbor's house was open. I was worried their cat would get the fish, so I closed that door. I discovered a party guest had brought her two cats. They were sitting on a chair, and one was wearing a silly green hat. They were really sweet cats, but I didn't want them in the house with the fish, just in case. They were indoor cats, so I couldn't put them out in the backyard for a party. Instead, I locked them in my bedroom, which was very messy."

—Anonymous

Dear Anonymous:

Thanks for sharing your dream. It is very rich with symbolism, so it's ripe for interpretation.

Setting

The setting of the dream is at a party in your messy backyard and in your house. The dream's setting suggests its context, or what the dream is about. The house represents your various emotions, while a party is telling you to find more fun and joy in your life. The backyard, which represents your subconscious, is overgrown, which suggests you are trying to hide or keep private aspects of yourself you believe are messy. The dream, then, is likely about some heavy emotions you've been dealing that you've been hiding or keeping private, because you are embarrassed by them. The dream is suggesting you can start to feel better by bringing more fun and joy into your life.

Symbols

The symbols in your dream provide more information about the dream's main theme. There are several to examine.

• A betta fish represents thoughts emerging from the subconscious that you are ready to deal with. The fish is blue, which is representative of the truth and wisdom, so the subconscious thought is one of truth and wisdom.

• An aquarium represents emotions acknowledged but not confronted.

• Water represents emotions and the subconscious. You indicate the water is full, then nearly empty, then full

again, and the water is clear, which means the thoughts emotions are clear, and they are either full emotions, which save the fish (your subconscious thoughts ready to emerge) or nearly empty emotions, which could kill the fish. This seems to indicate that you need to fully focus on your emotions in order to allow this important subconscious thought to emerge.

• Cats represent creativity and independence; an aggressive cat (the first one that tries to kill the fish) suggests you may be struggling with the feminine aspect of your personality. So some feminine aspect of yourself is trying to sublimate the important subconscious thought that is trying to arise, and it is blocking your experience of joy.

• There are four cats total. Four is the number of physical limitation and hard work. Only one of the four has tried to harm the fish. The others, you see as a threat, although they've taken no action against the fish. The two cats are especially sweet in the dream. This suggests you are perceiving threats and aggression where there is none.

• Two (two cats in the chair) is the number of balance and partnership, cooperation, and soul. One of the two cats is wearing a green hat. The green hat represents hiding an aspect of self (hat) and positive change or health (green).

• The chair represents taking time out to contemplate things before moving forward.

• The door represents new opportunities, but you are closing it to keep away an imagined fear (one of the cats), and neighbors represent tranquility at home, so closing the door suggests your imagined fear is keeping you from both peace and new opportunity.

• You put the two cats in your bedroom, which represents private aspects of yourself, and you note the bedroom is messy, which suggests you need to get things in order. So it suggests you are hiding some aspect of yourself you perceive to be messy or undesirable, and putting the two nice cats there is suggesting once again that this perceived threat is keeping you from cleaning up these aspects that are in need of cleaning.

Putting it All Together

The dream seems to suggest you have some worries, fears, or other deeply negative feelings that are keeping you from allowing something important to surface that will bring you more joy and positive changes. It also suggests your worries and fears are perceived and not real, and your perception of them is holding you back.

It may be time to sit down and take inventory and see what you are afraid of that is not serving you or holding you back so you can allow this new thought or feeling to arise, which can help move your life forward in a positive way.

—Karen

Dream #2

Dear Karen,

"I dreamed I was on the verge of all these disasters. For example, I was at the top of a steep hill, and I was about to go tumbling down the hill to my demise. However, when I lost my footing and fell, I realized I was only perceiving the hill as being steep, and I tumbled an inch or two landing safely with no injury.

"Then, I came to a bridge. The bridge was super rickety and across this very deep canyon that I had to cross. I was so afraid I was going to fall through — that the bridge wouldn't support me and would break. As I stepped onto the bridge and made my way to the middle, it crumbled and I fell through. It turned out, however, the bridge wasn't up high at all. It was only an inch or two down, and I landed safely and softly."

—Anonymous

Dear Anonymous:

Thanks for writing. I love it when a dream is as clear as this one. The dream is telling you that these things you've built up as big fears are really only tiny bumps along the way, and you're going to be safe, even if what you believe is the worst thing that could happen does.

The Universe is supporting you, and even if you "fall," you're in for a soft landing. The torture for you isn't in falling, it's in worrying about the fall before it comes. You are safe. Go ahead and take that risk and stop worrying about falling. You'll be OK.

—Karen

Read Karen's new dream interpretation book, "Dark of Night in the Light of Day: The Art of Interpreting Your Dreams," which is now available on Amazon. ◆

ANNIE'S ASHES

By Willie Windwalker Gibson

A lot of people never think about when they die and what is to be done as far as a funeral. Some people just want a quiet ceremony with no fanfare. They don't want a lot of people fussing over them.

I know when my father died, he did not have a lot of life insurance. He had a small $500 insurance policy, plus $250 that Social Security gave us for his funeral.

My father was a World War II soldier and was awarded the bronze star. The American Legion supplied a flag for his coffin. The rest of the cost of his funeral, which was $6,000, was left for the family to dig up. My aunts stepped up and paid for the rest of the funeral to bury my father. The United States Army supplied his marker. So my father had a wonderful funeral. We knew my dad was able to rest in peace.

But not every family is so lucky.

I knew a wonderful 86-year-old woman named Annie, who could outwork those much younger than herself. She had a good spirit and loved everyone.

Annie had several grown kids who were in their 40s and 50s, and she had several grandkids. Annie was not a wealthy woman. She owned her house and survived on her Social Security. Annie did have a few dollars tucked back in savings, just enough for her funeral and a little left over for the kids and grandkids. I know Annie loved her family, and she knew when the time came they would take care of what needed to be done.

That day came about 10 years ago. Annie passed away peacefully in her sleep at her home. When the family was notified, the family really did not know what they should do. The money that Annie left for her funeral was several thousand dollars, and the family members did not want to waste that money on a costly funeral. They wanted the money for themselves. After all, Annie was dead, and she really did not need a $3,000 coffin that was going in the ground. The land for the grave itself was another $2,000, and why should they pay that much for a hole in the ground?

So the family chose cremation as a solution to the problem. They had Annie cremated and had a simple service for her. A few days passed, and the funeral home had Annie's ashes ready for pickup. The oldest of her kids, Tom, went to the funeral home and got Annie's ashes, taking them back to his house.

Tom didn't know what he should do with Annie's ashes. So he started calling his other siblings, asking each of them if they wanted Annie's ashes. The other kids wanted no part of them, leaving Annie's ashes up to Tom. So, he placed Annie's ashes on the mantel above the fireplace in his home.

The box of ashes sat there for a few days all alone on the mantel. Tom went about his business. One day Tom came home and found out that his home had been broken into. The house was robbed of electronics, guns, and some cash. Tom was taking inventory of the things stolen for the insurance company, when he noticed Annie's ashes were gone. Whoever broke in stole them.

Tom was heartbroken, and he notified the family their mother's ashes had been stolen. Although no one wanted her ashes, they were horrified that they were now gone. Tom chose to place an ad in the local paper asking whoever broke into his house to please send the ashes back to him. Tom promised not to involve the police in the matter. He just wanted his mother's ashes back.

A week went by, and there was still no word about Annie's ashes. Then a letter came in the mail. It was a plane typed letter that read:

Dear Sir, please forgive me for taking your mothers ashes. I didn't know what I had taken until I looked in the box. I did not know what I should do with the ashes, so I placed them in a drawer. When I did this, things started happening at my house. Things were being moved, footsteps, and a women crying. I figured out it had to do with the ashes. I will send you the box of ashes back soon. Please except my deepest apologies for robbing your home."

Two days later Tom got the ashes back in the mail. The ashes were OK. Tom went back to the funeral home and had the ashes placed in an urn. Tom then had the urn placed in a vault with Annie's name on it.

Tom used his part of Annie's funeral money to give Annie her just rewards — a decent place to rest. The moral of this story is: When a family member wants you to do right by them in the final days, do it, because they will make sure you do so in the end. ◆

5 Times Fairies Wreaked Havoc on the Real World

By Krystle Vermes, getspooked.net

In certain cultures, fairies are largely respected and rarely crossed. Some believe that the fae can have a negative impact on the real world, depending on how humans treat the earth they share. When fairies rebel, steps need to be taken to appease them, but the circumstances often dictate the changes that have to be made.

Let's take a look at a few examples of how humans have been affected by fairies in modern times.

1. Iceland, 2013

When the Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration wanted to construct a more direct road from the tip of the Álftanes peninsula, locals were not pleased — on behalf of their elven neighbors.

Ragnhildur Jónsdóttir, a protestor of the project, believed that the construction would disturb a fairy church constructed within nearby volcanic rubble. "This elf church is connected by light energy to other churches, other places," Jónsdóttir told *The Atlantic*. "So, if one of them is destroyed, it's, uh, well, it's not a good thing."

The legality of the roadway's construction was eventually questioned.

2. Iceland, 2015

The Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration once again had to consider the fae in the construction of a road near an "elfin lady stone." Sveinn Zophoniasson, who worked for the Bass road construction company, said the stone was originally found during excavation for the project.

Workers piled dirt onto it to clear a mudslide; afterward, a flood ensued, and one of Zophoniasson's colleagues was injured on the job.

"Nobody even thought of the rock [even though the area is regarded as a sacred place in local folklore]," Zophoniasson told *The Morgunbladid Daily*.

3. Ireland, 1999

The national route between Limerick and Galway in Ireland was delayed and rerouted for approximately 10 years due to a supposed fairy tree. According to local folklorist Eddie Lenihan, the tree was a meeting point for the fairies of Munster, Ireland.

The Clare County Council eventually agreed to a contract, which stated that "access is not permitted within

a minimum five-meter radius" of the tree. A protective fence has also been placed around it.

4. Ireland, 2015

Lenihan made his way into the headlines again when he spoke up about construction at Knockhouse in Waterford. He claimed that the development of a new factory would mean the destruction of a fairy fort, leaving the fae with no choice but to eventually seek revenge.

"It will be more than bad luck; there are stories after stories of it," he told the *Irish Examiner*. "I'd be the first to be skeptical; I'm not one of those people who believes everything they hear. I've been collecting folklore for 40 years, and a lot of the stories are bunkum, but not all. ... You can have one coincidence or two coincidences ... but after a while you realize that it can't be a coincidence."

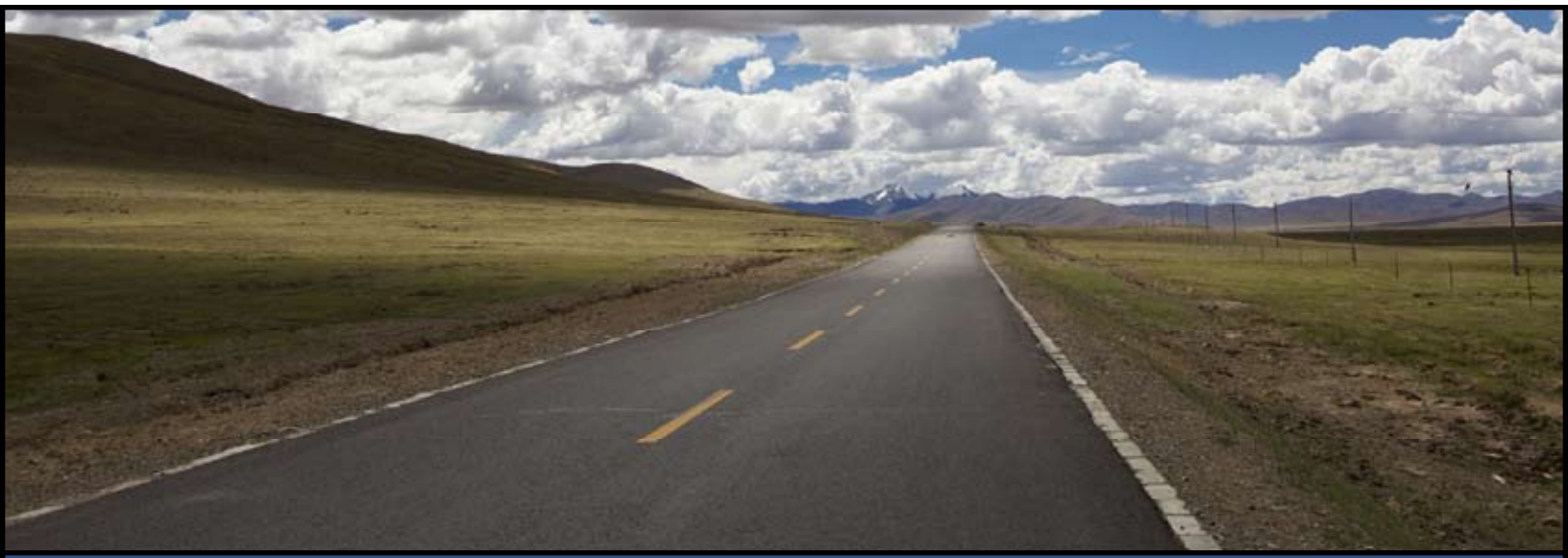
The construction is set to be completed in 2018.

5. Ireland, 2017

Elves are being blamed for potholes popping up on the N22 highway in Ireland. Specifically, Irish Parliament member Danny Healy-Rae believes that fairies are creating the potholes as an act of rebellion for destroying their forts.

"There are numerous fairy forts in that area," Healy-Rae told *The Irish Times*. "I know that they are linked. Anyone that tampered with them back over the years paid a high price and had bad luck. That is what is responsible for the dip in the N22, which has occurred again, despite the council spending around €40,000 to repair it."

Experts believe the issues have to do with a geotechnical/soil problem. ◆



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THE BATHTUB GAME

By Winter M. Balefire, WinterBalefire.com

The bathtub game is a type of interactive urban legend. This legend requires you to perform a ritual that will summon a spirit. Once she is summoned, you will begin to play a type of cat and mouse game with her.

Some do this for a sense of power over the supernatural world, for a rush, or possibly just out of curiosity. Either way, there is always a risk when you attempt to "play" with the supernatural.

Daruma-san is the other name of this ritual. The legend tells of a Japanese woman who fell in the bathtub, impaling herself on the rusty faucet. Now her spirit can be summoned while you're submerged in the bath; but beware, she is angry.

Beginning the Ritual

This is how the ritual goes (Note: This is not an endorsement of the ritual or a recommendation that you try this ritual). You are instructed to begin before bed. Turn off all the lights, fill the bathtub with water, disrobe, and step in carefully.

A shower cannot be substituted, as you must be submerged in water.

Close your eyes, begin washing your hair, and repeat "Daruma-san fell down" continuously. You'll notice a rhythmic chant will begin to form in your tone; continue washing your hair. Remember to keep your eyes closed tightly.

If everything was done correctly, you'll begin to see her in your mind's eye. You'll see her standing in a tub, you'll see her slip, and worst of all, you'll see her impale her right eye on the rusty faucet. Soon you may feel move-

ment in the water; you may feel her standing behind you as the bath turns ice cold.

You must ask her, "Daruma-san, why did you fall in the tub?" Once you've finished washing your hair, keep your eyes closed and carefully step out of the bath.

Be very careful; some believe she may try to push you on your way out.

Do not open your eyes, do not drain the tub, and do not turn on the lights. Once you are out of the bathroom and have closed the door, you can open your eyes and go straight to bed.

MAKE SURE TO END THE GAME BEFORE MIDNIGHT; IF NOT, SHE WILL GIVE YOU TERRIFYING NIGHTMARES.

The Chase

When you open your eyes the next morning, the game has begun. You must go about your day as you usually would. The spirit will be following you closely. An eerie feeling will consume you as she gets closer.

If you turn to look over your left shoulder, you won't see her; however, looking over your right shoulder will give you a glimpse of her black hair and missing eye. This will reveal just how close she is to catching up to you.

What happens if she reaches you isn't known. Theories range from being haunted while awake and asleep or possibly even possession.

You have the option to yell "Tomare!" which means stop and gain some space between you and the spirit.

Use this sparingly; it will only stop her temporarily, and the amount of time this works will decrease with each use.

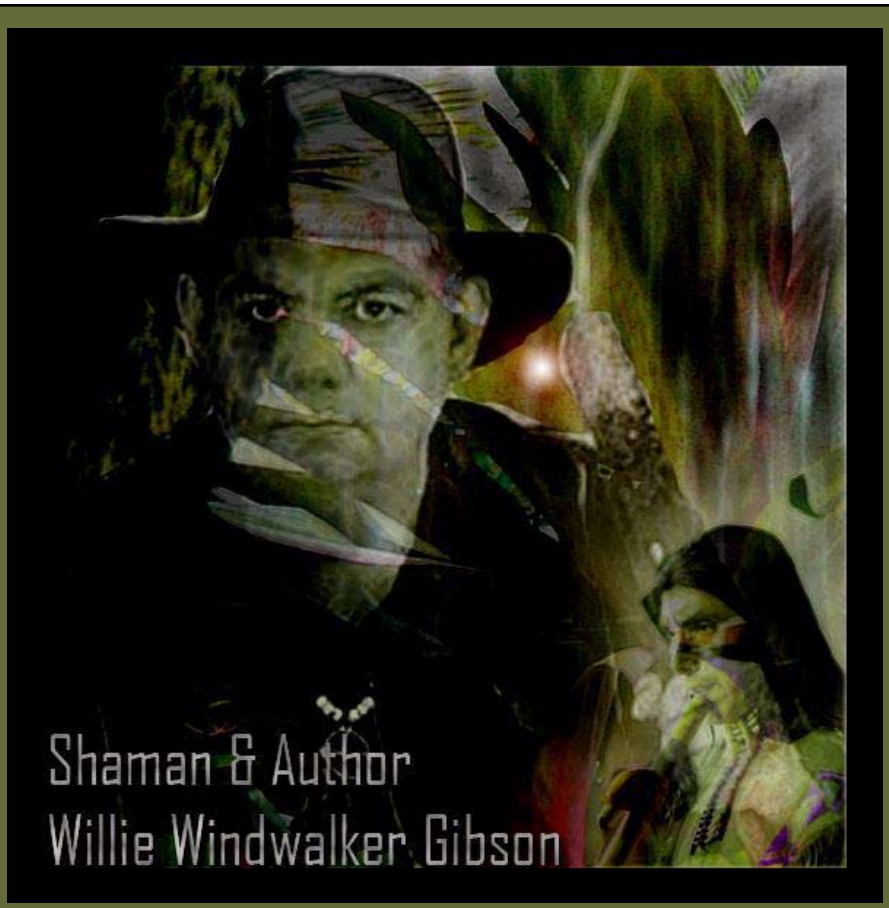
Cease and Desist

To bring an end to this ritual, you must catch her in your gaze by looking over your right shoulder and say, "Kitta!" while swinging your arm down in a chopping motion. This will cut the spirit loose.

Though this action sounds easy, it can prove to be quite difficult. Remember, you must have her in your line of sight; if the spirit senses you are about to end the chase, she may hide.

She is believed to be attracted to dark, damp areas, especially near open water, so you are encouraged to avoid these areas if possible.

Make sure to end the game before midnight; if not, she will give you terrifying nightmares.◆



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MY ENCOUNTERS WITH ...

Dark Witches, Shapeshifters, and Skinwalkers

By Rainbow Radaelli, TruthSeekerHighway.com

What is it about hearing the howl of a wolf or leaves and twigs cracking under the weight of some unknown creature that makes the hair on the back of your neck stand up? Is it really the blackness of the night, and all that resides in it, that assaults our senses? Or can it be knowing the cover of night offers nightmarish possibilities that we fear?

Many people can see their interminable childhood monsters within the blink of an eye, because human beings can manifest their fears into any type of hallucination, believing that what they think they see is real. But is it real?

Then, there is the tangible and bona fide footsteps that come out of nowhere, the growl that seems different, more aggressive, and treacherous. Losing our self control, we inhale, gasping for air, hoping what we are seeing is all just a dream.

In moments like this, dreams can seem like reality and reality can seem like a dream. This uncertainty, is where dark witches, shapeshifters, and skinwalkers seem to lurk, sometimes stepping back and forth from one reality to the next. Such beings survive, because most people prefer to ignore their very existence.

Yet within this beleaguered ignorance, these dark creatures' very existence permeates the air, filling the room with dread. This is part of the dark agenda that proliferates itself by fear and trepidatious half truths.

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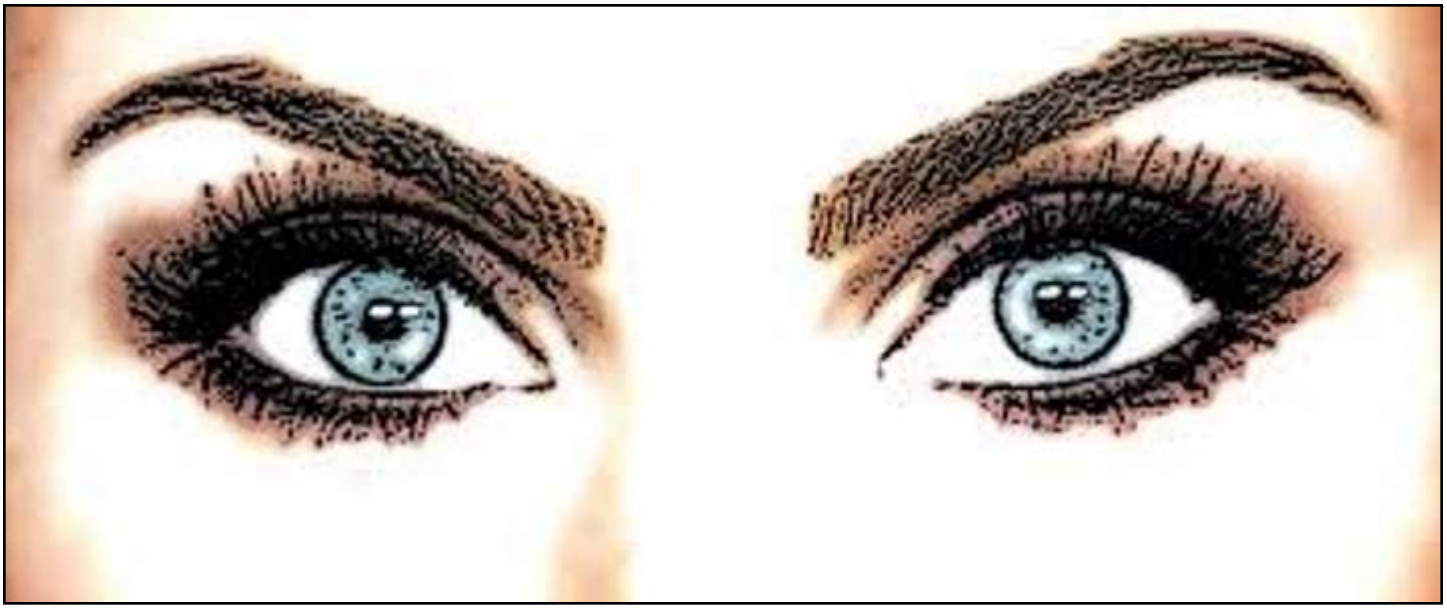
Rainbow prays in New Mexico wearing a traditional Native American wedding dress. She has trained as a medicine woman and has also studied Egyptian Magic for decades.



Many moons ago, I was studying to become a medicine woman. Interestingly enough, the problems I encountered in my training weren't from ghosts or dark or dimensional spirits; they were from Earth-based, hidden opportunists.

This diminutive faction seemed to make their presence known in the most unconventional of ways. Strange encounters with people or animals seemed to become a part of my everyday existence, yet I trekked on with my studies, never knowing what was coming around the pike.

I lived in an 18-foot Sioux teepee in the summer months in Taos, New Mexico. I loved living in a circular home and understood why it was the best way to connect with Mother Nature. It's the eternal circle of life, the womb of femininity, baring witness to the rising sun in the east and the eventide in the west.

SHE WOULD LITERALLY STOP IN HER TRACKS, STARING AT ME AS I DROVE PAST HER.

Within my teachings, it was understood where the line was drawn between the dark and light worlds. I had to understand how to abate the dark world by understanding its function and who hid in its obscurity.

This, as I was to find out, was very important to my well being and also for those around me. Once anything from the dark realm becomes aware of who you are or what you are trying to become, it pursues your inner knowing, the knowledge known as "your" medicine.

The darkness becomes envious of this knowledge, so it tries to steal or coax individuals to give their medicine away. The ultimate goal is to get practicing medicine men and women to willfully give away their medicine, which isn't easy.

The Dark Witch Who Wanted to Curse Me

Surprisingly enough, a dark witch crossed my path in my beginning years, and because of this, I decided to rethink my medicine path. Herbs and healing were my interest, but I soon realized I had to become a warrior for the light as well.

I don't remember her name, which is just as well, because I probably wouldn't write it down anyway. The circumstances surrounding her strange demeanor is a bit vague now. I think she was new in town and had only been in Taos for a few days before I met her. I believe I was introduced to her by a mutual friend, and from the moment we shook hands, I knew there was going to be trouble. She gave me a strange look that was menacing, but I went ahead and smiled back at her anyway, making nervous small talk.

Days after our introduction, I would see her walking in the middle of town, and she would literally stop in her tracks, staring at me as I drove past her.

The creepiest experience I had with her was on a day when I was outside, standing by the main light in the middle of town, waiting to cross the street. She stared at me from across the other side, never missing a beat, and kept on walking with her head literally turning around behind her like from the movie *The Exorcist.* She finally looked away from me and crossed the road just as a fast-moving car missed her by inches. She laughed and continued on her way as I froze on the spot, freaking out.

Weeks later, I heard through the grapevine that she wanted to put a curse on me; for what purpose, I had no idea. I took what was conveyed to me very seriously, so

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after mulling it around in my head awhile, I decided to ask her to meet me so we could talk things out. We met a few days later at a gift shop where she worked.

To make a long story short, she had assumed for some strange reason that I didn't like her from our first encounter. I knew she was playing a passive-aggressive game with me, but I played along to keep the peace. I explained to her that I didn't know her well enough to dislike her. We, thankfully, came to an understanding and eventually became casual friends.

She had a few distinct characteristics that I think are signature traits of a dark-side possession, including shapeshifting. One characteristic that was uncanny beyond belief was the fact that she could distort her body in ways that seemed inhuman.

Sometimes, her eyes took on a wild animal stare that looked at me with distrust and contempt. Her pupils would dilate, becoming large, especially if she was extremely agitated. They would literally take over most of the eye with very little white showing. She had a possessed look to her that was unnerving and scary to say the least.

My observations of her first hand helped me see how a person who is possessed thinks and acts. One thing I will always remember about her is that she seemed to flourish living in a dysfunctional chaotic lifestyle, exasperated by her own negativity that was directed toward other people.

Rainbow rides her Clydesdale mare, Molly.

Sci-fi movies tend to typecast these kind of individuals as invincible and unbeatable foes. It's easy to notice that with most of the movies out today that have anything to do with possession or the dark arts, they carry a message, implying, "We are here to stay."

Dark practitioners like this woman I encountered, who carry this message throughout their lives, knowingly help nurture this mythos, allowing it to manifest and grow in the minds of people. This in itself cultivates the evil agenda into our reality, making it seem solid. The fact is, it is an illusion that plays itself over and over again in the minds of society like a broken record.

The shapeshifters of today, can be either a dark witch or a noble healer. The dark witch manifests his or her skill by inviting the darkness in and by enticing the animalistic qualities of the dark and silently ominous shadows. They inevitably morph into something that can be terrifying. The shaman, who has animal totems as assistants, calls upon their gifts and insight, invoking their benevolent and healing qualities to help humankind. They gain the eyesight, hearing, and insight of nature and the elementals. The two are the polar opposites of each other; so, consequently, for every curse, there is a cure.

There are numerous photos and many stories told of shamans who wear the skin of their animal totem. In many cases, this allows for the various strengths of the animal to come forth and assist with the desired outcome of specific ceremonies.

There are those who also wear the skin of their animal totem for darker reasons. This is usually done for a negative impression, left for a targeted individual.

A shapeshifter has a broader scope and understanding of the elements and how to use them to their advantage. They usually invoke the help of the elements, understanding their relationship with nature.

From research and interviews, I have found that it's not uncommon for some Native American families to have both light and dark relations as a part of their family dynamics. The homebody itself can become a battleground for the light and dark quandary opposing each other.

A dark witch has an agenda that is usually in the dark realm of possession and ritual, so they tend to live in an environment they perpetuate over and over again throughout their lives. Endless curses and spells cast onto people eventually take a toll on a witch's sanity, leading them into a weird type of lunacy that eventually causes their own demise.

Darkness begets darkness, thus resulting in its own karmic debt. Eventually, the shadows become a jail sentence, with the dark witch confined and wallowing within their own curses and spells.

Interestingly enough, the light and dark aspects of life are opposite sides of the same coin. Most Native American families understand the characteristics of both sides, and because of this, shapeshifting and witchcraft have very different uses and incentives, depending on which side of the coin it's being used for.

Meeting a Dark Shapeshifter

The closest I came to a dark shapeshifter was when I rented a very unique round house with a friend of mine close by where my grandmother used to live in Valdez, New Mexico. We drove by the house thinking it would make a great practice and dance studio. It was hidden from a dirt road by trees and brush, so it was very secluded. As we were to find out quickly, the round house had a dark and haunted energy to it in the daytime, almost taking on an ominous and foreboding atmosphere.

As the encroaching evening slowly crept up on us, we felt like trapped rabbits. The woman who owned the house had a huge altar against a wall in the center room, which was combined as a kitchen and dining room. Dead birds with needles in them, along with other dead creatures, were a part of her altar.

Our landlady decided to leave a day ahead of schedule without telling us and left the key under the doormat. Her instructions, written in a note, were made very clear. Touch nothing on her altar or move anything from its place, period. An ominous silence greeted us as we stood in the kitchen standing back to back. The reality of the situation finally hit us when the noises started. My friend looked scared, and I was terrified!

When I agreed to rent the house with my friend, I didn't know about the altar. Unfortunately, my friend didn't feel the need to tell me about it, because she thought in some avant-garde way that it was interesting. I had a problem with it from the get-go, and I made my feelings known.

The altar took an unusual house and pushed it into the Twilight Zone. Our first and only night at the house was dealing with constant banging and creaking from the roof and side of the walls. The top floor was where the beds were, so we decided it was best to stay up there together in case anything happened. We put twin beds, side by side, against a wall by the bedroom door and decided it was best to leave all our clothes and belongings in our bags for fear that if something happened, we could grab our bags and leave quickly.

As the night wore on, sleep finally came for both of us, but only after enduring constant rattling and banging from all around the house, which was enough to make us go insane. Unfortunately, our reprieve was short lived, because out of the blue and without warning, a bird began to loudly squawk inside a pipe that led from the outside to a cast-iron stove by the wall across from us.

It almost seemed like it was trying to go through the pipe in order to get into the room where we were sleeping. We both sat up, awakened by the horrible noise it was making and put our hands to our ears. Then, as quickly as it had come ... everything went silent, and the noise was totally gone. It was as if we had woken up right in the middle of a nightmare.

Strangely, as we were sitting up in our beds, the whiff of soggy dirt hit our nostrils. We couldn't tell from which direction it was coming from. It was like the smell of a dark and dingy cave that had a fungus-like smell to it. The smell stayed with us the rest of the night, along with a dead silence that was eerie.

Sunrise was a joyous relief, and as soon as we could see daylight peering over the mountains, we were up and ready to get out of there. The fact that we were relieved to survive the night was an understatement. We walked down the steps to the kitchen area and immediately stopped in our tracks. We saw that several of the birds on the alter had

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been moved from their original positions from the night before. To appease the landlady but mostly so she wouldn't think we messed with her altar, we decided to put most of them back in their original positions.

For some odd reason, that I still can't figure out to this day, I looked behind me and saw a beautiful bird with a yellow crest on it, laying on its side in an old-fashioned glass cabinet. It had a needle through its heart, and for some strange reason unbeknownst to me, I knew that the bird's spirit was kept hostage in the house.

Against my friend's advice, I took the bird outside, took the needle out of its chest, and laid it down by a tree so it could be back with its natural surroundings. When I walked back into the house, it felt like I was immediately surrounded by a deafening sound of birds shrieking in my head. I suddenly realized that each and every bird or animal that was kept on that altar was stuck in that house, its spirit trapped by the landlady.

I wanted to free all of the birds, but my friend argued that I would implicate her if I did. I knew at that point that the landlady was definitely a dark practitioner, and I knew I felt a responsibility to the birds. I decided that I would come back in a few days and free all the birds myself, never telling my friend what I was going to do.

Rainbow's background includes 30 years as a professional belly dancer. Pictured above, she appears in her dance costume in the Badlands of New Mexico. (Photo by Pat Berrett.)

Interestingly, my friend never went back to the house after that first night. She told me she was afraid of the house and left me her key, along with dealing with the landlady.

I had to muster up all my bravado three days later when I drove back to the house. Even though it was a beautiful day, I was petrified to go anywhere near it. As I was driving up, the most horrific feeling washed over me. I had to sit in my truck and try to get a hold of myself.

I finally got out of my truck and walked up to the front door. I heard noises inside, yet I knew nobody was home. I unlocked the front door, and the door creaked open slowly. It was at that very moment, I knew in some strange way that the landlady was aware of what I was going to do. I could feel her insistently, wanting me to walk into the house. I told no one I was going over there, so it would have been days, if not weeks, before anyone would know I was missing if anything happened.

I heard a growl from inside that sounded really close to the door, so I grabbed the doorknob and closed the door, locking it quickly, and then ran to my truck. I drove away like a bat out of hell. I hated the fact that the birds were held captive in that house, but on my own, it was just too much to bear.

I couldn't get help, because as strange as it sounded, people didn't believe me.

Eventually, the landlady ended up coming back sooner than planned, and I once more headed back to her house, keys in hand and a resolute attitude to still free the birds. She was a young woman with a slight build, but what was strange about her is that I can't remember her face. It was almost nondescript.

I could tell from the moment our eyes made contact that she was angry with me. The only thing she said to me was that I had no right to take her bird outside. She said it was sacred and dear to her and that it wasn't my place to decide what was best for it.

I told her it was inhumane to do what she had done to the bird in the first place and that I knew I did the right thing. We stood squaring off at each other for a few seconds. I stood my ground inside her house, and for a few minutes she thought she had the upper hand as she walked toward me.

My upper hand came walking in the door right at that moment. He was a good friend named Phil visiting from out of town. He was a Cajun from Louisiana who knew a lot about witches and dark magic. She looked at him with

a surprised look on her face. I put the keys on the table and walked toward the door where he was standing. I turned around to look at her.

She seemed really old at that moment and very agitated by Phil's presence. I told her that eventually nature would be knocking at her door, and when that day came, pay back would be a bitch.

As we walked toward Phil's truck, out of the corner of my eye, I saw an unusually big, black dog coming at us. He looked ferocious, and I knew at that moment that we had just seconds to get back to his truck!

All I know, is that we made it to the truck and by the time he backed out of the dirt driveway, this huge dog was gone. We counted our blessings, and a sigh of relief came over us as we began our descent toward the Valdez valley.

By the time we got to the entrance of our camp, we were talking about what our next move should be. That's when the unthinkable happened, the big, black dog was standing by the entrance to my teepee, and I realized that this was a serious breach, one that I had to confront head on because this was my home.

Phil wanted me to stay in the truck, but I had horses, chickens, goats, and geese that were my babies, and I wasn't going to let this large beast attack any of them. Without thinking and purely on instinct, I jumped out of the truck and ran toward the big black dog. I threw rocks and sticks, yelling at him, saying he was not welcome. He just stood there, surrounded by my geese who were in attack mode themselves.

I walked about 10 feet toward the large black dog and made it clear I would hurt him. He just stood there, staring at me, so I immediately went into action. I ran at him and hurled a rock at his head. He jumped out of the rock's way and started to run back the way he came, with me running after him. I looked like a mad woman, but I didn't care. I made it clear he was never to come back!

After I had calmed down, I realized that I had missed something, because I didn't feel right. He obviously didn't hurt any of the animals; he was just trying to get my attention, because he was trying to convey a message to me, one that I didn't get because I was too busy defending my animals.

I think in his own way, he was telling me he needed help, and I was too dense and twitterpated at the time to see it. I always regretted chasing him away after that. I did drive by the house a few weeks later, looking for him, but I never saw him again after that. I heard through the grapevine that the dark shapeshifter moved away and had the house up for sale shortly after our encounter. I was happy she was gone, but I felt I let a lot of animals down by not doing something more for them.

What Is a Skinwalker?

The skinwalker is obviously the most intrusive symbol in cult history. It has always been a mysterious and confusing figure in folklore or movies, because the interpretation or definition regarding a skinwalker always seems to be a bit muddy. My view is that a dark witch is behind the scenes in some form or fashion, controlling a compromised or deceived soul.

Once the dark witch gains the upper hand, they can place their captive in the forefront of hostilities, hence creating the skinwalker. Skinwalkers, who are dark are directed and controlled by a menacing force that uses them for personal vendettas and feuds. There is a contract that binds them together. It's a distinctive and detailed contract kept in the bowels of the dark and decrepit shadows that waits for the ill-fated signature in blood so that it can eternally envelop a soul and control it.

The skinwalker is in some ways symbolic of their own delusional respite. It's in their nature to think that some day they can "walk" away from their circumstances by acquiescing to another's will. The darkness doesn't come without consequences, so once a person plays with fire, they not only become a part of the fervor that intensifies its malevolence, but they eventually get burned by it as well.

I think there are trapped souls, like the birds and large black dog, that are prisoners of black magic. I think there are dark witches who have their own agenda and

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vendettas, thus becoming physically twisted, distorted, and perverted. They become what they put out, and it eventually shows in their appearance.

Shapeshifters can be either dark or light in intention. The gift of being a medicine man or woman is the very fact that they can heal people and speak with nature in her own language, one that she shares intimately with them. If darkness is a part of the equation then, the shadows speak in tongues as the night sky cloaks their ominous deeds. A dark witch who can shapeshift can project two images, one that is the illusion of intention and the other that is their true objective.

In order to appreciate the light, we must understand the dark.

The skinwalker is the inevitable consequence of ill-fated circumstances, the dark and depraved outcome based on someone else's nemesis or foes. It's not so much that I don't think that a skinwalker can't be a skinwalker because they want to be or intend to be; it's that their insanity comes from the constant push and pull of obscure sentiments and commands. They just don't seem to do what they do by conviction alone.

Even with my experience printed in the September issue of *Paranormal Underground* magazine, I still feel it was more a warning, but by someone else other than the skinwalker.

Many people don't realize that there is definitely an Achilles heel even for the individuals partaking in the dark agenda and dark arts. They can implode within their own depravity because of the very fact that evil begets evil. It's only a matter of time before it swallows itself whole, creating a black hole that consumes itself.

This type of self destruction happens because within all living things, there is the spark of light, the illumination of the divine creator's breath. This illuminated celestial presence is in everything, even in those who choose to deny its very existence. To put it simply, to deny the light within is to deny the soul its origin.

Those traveling by light must take heed of the fact that the shadows sometimes tell stories in the whispering of the trees silhouetted by darkness. When the owl screeches its warning, we know we are truly not alone.

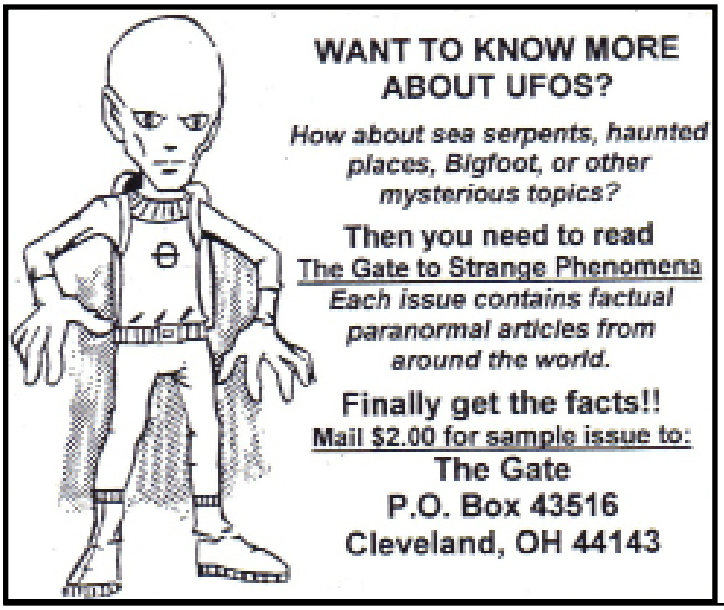
Native American families who generationally have both the dark and the light counterparts understand that peace comes from the gray area in the middle. It's not the most conventional place to be, but one that at least both sides can exist on.

With this being said, I have come to understand that if I seek out a dark witch, shapeshifter, or skinwalker, they will readily accept my invitation. I understand they are out there, and because of my medicine path, I respect the dark, but I am where the light resides by choice.

Since the light and dark aspects of humans and nature are on opposite sides of the same coin, I have made sure I know both sides and respect my boundaries. It comes down to this: In order to appreciate the light, we must understand the dark ...

"A Native American elder once described his own inner struggles in this manner: Inside of me there are two dogs. One of the dogs is mean and evil. The other dog is good. The mean dog fights the good dog all the time. When asked which dog wins, he reflected for a moment and replied, 'The one I feed the most.'"

—George Bernard Shaw ◆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A BOOK OF GOTHIC POEMS FOR GOTHIC SOULS

Alan D.D.

On the Edge Between Life and Death

By Maria Anna van Driel, NextTruth.com

This article is written about a real-life event. All names and places have been altered to protect the privacy of the persons involved in this story.

As an investigative journalist who combines modern science with mythology and local folklore to search for the origin of evolution itself, it is almost inevitable for me not to step into certain realms that have been thought of by many as pseudo-science — and even impossible in reality. But is it really? Can we really say

these realms do not exist? Is it all a mind-created illusion whereby chemical reactions increase the neuron activity in the brain?

Well, maybe most of the cases can be explained as so, but some are so unique in their behavior that I cannot throw them in a box containing a label saying, "Scientifically explained."

Let me tell you about my latest experience that falls in the category of being unexplainable.

* * * * *

Working on a new article for Paranormal Underground magazine, I was fully concentrated on a possible similarity between the conscious energy field and the Higgs field,

Einstein–Rosen bridges, and entangled communication (telesomatic events) when a subtle sound, coming from my laptop, made me aware of the fact that someone had written me an online message.

PING ... "Hello, Maria. Are you available? Do you have time? I have an urgent problem!"

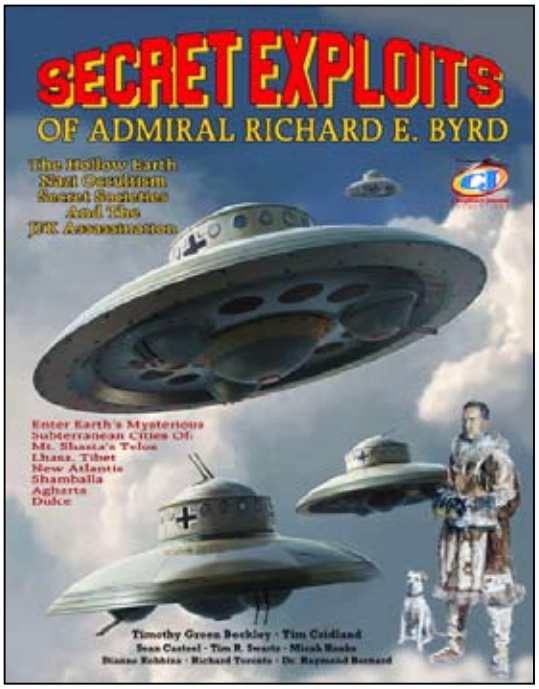
Knowing the person who wrote me the message, I did not have to think twice about the emergency call and made an appointment for one o'clock that same day.

Because I had some time left before the appointment, I went outside with my dogs. But during this walk, a dark and frightening feeling grabbed me and slid over me like a sticky spider web that would not let go. Something was wrong ... terribly wrong — and far away from getting right again!

One o'clock, the doorbell rang and three people stood in front of me ... father and husband, Jack, daughter, Debora, and nephew, Theo. Looking at their facial

→

DID ADMIRAL RICHARD E. BYRD LEAD A SECRET "PRIVATE LIFE" AWAY FROM THE PRYING EYES OF THE PUBLIC? WHAT WAS HIS ULTIMATE INVOLVEMENT WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY?



Several years ago a mysterious manuscript said to be Admiral Richard E. Byrd's Private Diary emerged. In it Byrd wrote about a vast ice free "paradise" beyond the Poles:

"We are crossing over the small mountain range and still proceeding northward as best as can be ascertained. Beyond the mountain range is what appears to be a valley with a small river or stream running through the center portion. There should be no green valley below! Something is definitely wrong and abnormal here! We should be over Ice and Snow! To the port side are great forests growing on the mountain slopes. Our navigation instruments are still spinning, the gyroscope is oscillating back and forth!"

During his career as an explorer, up until his death in March 1957, Byrd was considered a national hero. Besides exploring both Poles, it is alleged that the veteran Navy commander had come upon an entrance way that led into a Hollow Earth inhabited by a race of giants.

Rumor also has it that Byrd, during his 1947 expedition, was confronted by a "lost" Battalion of Nazis whose settlement was being guarded by a fleet of back engineered "Flying Saucers." And while Byrd's scientific team was supposed to stay for six months in this frozen region, his expedition was called off shortly after his arrival.

What is generally not known is that on one of Byrd's sojourns to Antarctica, he sought to stave off mutiny from among his crew by enlisting some of the younger members into a very secretive "Loyal Legion," which enabled him to clamp down on any leaks about his missions and discoveries.

And while the content of Byrd's "secret diary" is open to debate, researcher and author Tim Cridland searches deeply into the many shadowy unknowns surrounding Byrd and the Nazis as well as a previously undisclosed wrinkle: a closely guarded connection between JFK's assassination to the iron grip of those determined to keep the secrets surrounding UFOs and the arrival of ultra-terrestrials locked away from public scrutiny forever. This conspiracy involved members of a sinister secret group of wealthy and "well connected" individuals that included Lyndon Johnson, John Connelly and at least one member of Byrd's family among its ranks.

This book takes a wholly original approach to a great many areas of interest revolving around the concept that our Earth is "hollow," and that a vast cavern system, constructed eons ago, exists connecting various subterranean cities with their hidden gateways back to the surface world. Both benevolent beings as well as "denizens of the deep" are said to populate this hidden realm.

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expressions, I understood this was not going to be an easy case they were about to ask me to look into nor would it be easy to fulfill their request.

The four of us sat down, and Debora told me what happened. Her mother, Christel, had a cerebral hemorrhage and was now laying in critical condition in intensive care. I had known this family for six years now, and this was the first time I did not know what to say to them.

Our conversation lasted about an hour. And the family eventually asked if I could help Christel.

"Of course I will help," I replied without any doubt. "But, remember, I cannot take away the cerebral hemorrhage. What I can do is ease the pain and slow down the blood pressure, which will give her the rest she needs in order to recover."

* * * * *

The next day at precisely four o'clock in the afternoon, Jack and Theo drove up on my driveway. Because Christel's condition was critical, hospital visiting hours were extremely limited. We didn't have much time, so we drove off to the hospital immediately.

I did request to drive two separate cars to the hospital, because I knew I needed some time and space alone in order to process all the emotions I was going to experience and absorb; plus, I needed to charge myself.

Walking up to the entrance of the hospital and climbing the stairs that led toward the first floor where the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) was located, I felt myself slipping into a light trance. I then stepped into ... an otherworldly realm that was once a solid reality.

Some 15 to 16 inches off of the floor of the waiting room, I saw a transcendental field. This field seemed to slow me down, which I later understood were the dropped emotions of all the people who have had or currently have their loved ones taken care of in ICU.

Christel's husband, Jack, and I walked up to electric doors with milky white windows. He pushed the button of the intercom, and a friendly voice of the serving nurse said that we could enter. The doors opened and a wave of electricity went through my body that felt like a mixture of sorrow and relief at the same time.

We put on a full-body apron and stepped into a long corridor, as the electric doors slowly closed behind us. Jack looked at me, and I could read an extreme uncertainty in his eyes. I tried to calm him down by assuring him that he wasn't alone in this. "I am here, and I will do whatever I can," I told him. But my assurance disappeared rapidly when I walked into Christel's room.

* * * * *

The room was filled with several clinical devices that monitored her heart rate and blood pressure. Red, blue, and transparent tubes were laying all over her that contained different kinds of medication to reduce her blood pressure, ease her pain, and do other things.

Standing at the foot of her bed, I looked at the woman in the hospital bed ... but it wasn't Christel ... it was a strange vessel that looked like her!

Then I smelled the strong odor of death itself ... warm rotting flesh and smelly pus.

"Look who I brought with me," Jack whispered to his wife, not noticing the strong odor hanging around her.

Trapped inside her own body, she briefly gazed at me with wide open eyes, and by doing so, she expressed a terrifying fear of being helpless and ... maybe dying.

Then her eyes were desperately searching through the hospital room, looking for recognizable shapes, but she could not lock onto anything longer than a second or two.

The equipment around her started to make hectic bleeping and ringing sounds that indicated Christel's blood pressure was rising quickly. Fortunately, this alarmed one of the nurses, who came rushing in and turned down the eerie noises a little bit. I was relieved, as the incident had almost given me a heart attack.

Jack tried to calm down his wife, but somehow this didn't work out as he had hoped. He turned to me. "Please help," he pleaded with me, a tone of hopelessness in his voice.

A cry for help as such cannot be ignored, so I took a deep breath and disconnected myself from the visible grid.

I walked up to Christel and laid my hand on her head, searching for her energy while absorbing most of the stress and pain she felt. Within a short time, I found her, and together, Christel and I walked a realm only we understood ... she calmed down.

As a result of the hemorrhage, the left side of Christel's body had become paralyzed and she had lost part of her speech, making it difficult for Christel to express herself. With much difficultly, she lifted up her right arm and tapped her head twice with her fingers, letting me know that she knew what had happened.

I WALKED UP TO CHRISTEL AND LAID MY HAND ON HER HEAD, SEARCHING FOR HER ENERGY ...

"I know sweetie; I know. Everything is going to be alright," I replied, to which she gave a very small but confirming nod.

With my hand still on her head, Christel closed her eyes for a couple of seconds ... tired from all of the commotion happening around her.

"Maria, I can't hold this any longer!" Jack said.

I turned to my right and saw Jack holding his wife's foot while he was trying to give her the energy he thought she needed in order to recover, but he was only weakening himself due to an unbalanced flow.

"Shall I take it over?" I asked.

"Yes, please."

Holding Christel's foot, I let myself consciously slide into a slight trance and concentrated on her carotid artery, which went crazy.

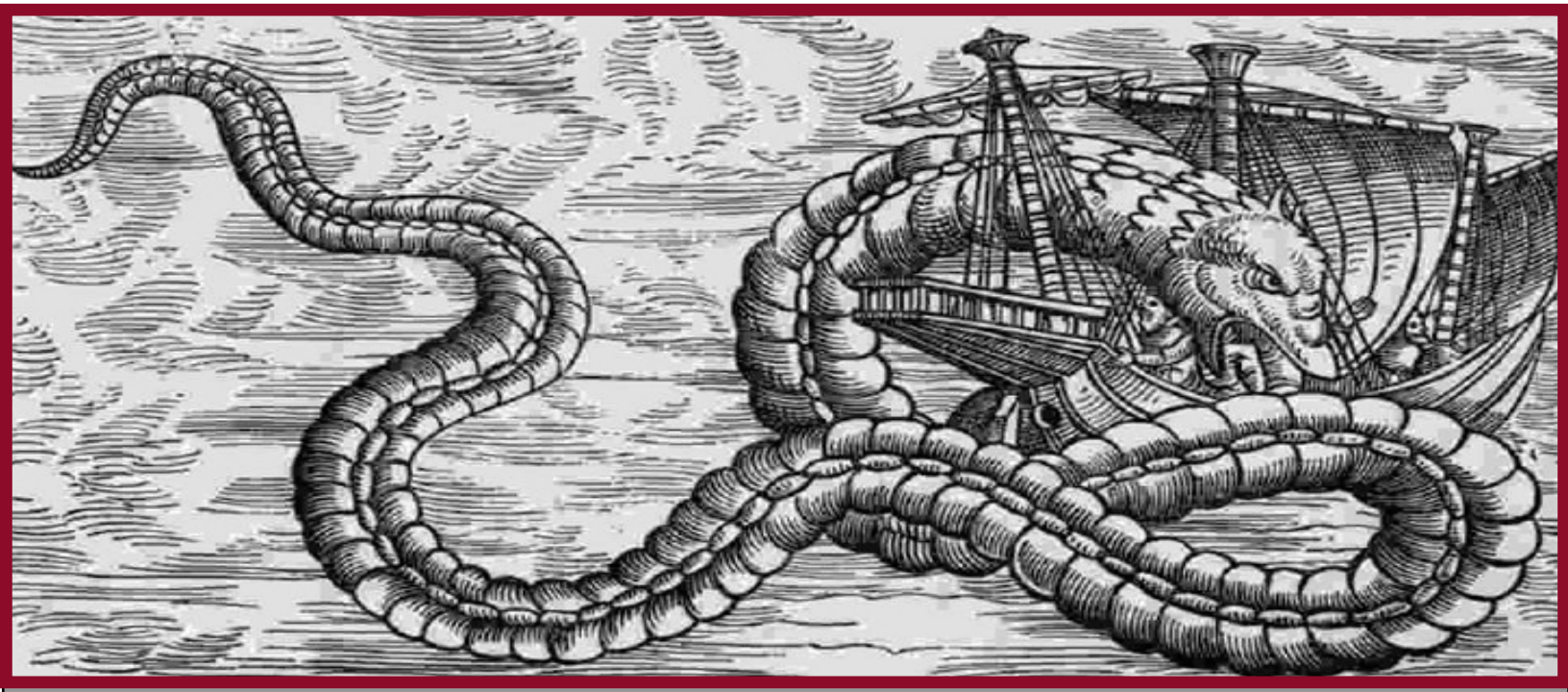
My experience was that it lasted only a couple of seconds, but according to Jack it was minutes before I could drop Christel's blood pressure.

Nevertheless, Christel calmed down again, fell asleep, and even started to snore, which was, for us, the sign to leave the room and give her the rest she needed to recover from this horrifying situation.

Back in the waiting room, I had the feeling of a strong force pulling down into that heavy field I felt right when we first entered. It felt like it grabbed me by the throat.

I had no choice other than to go outside and shake it all off.

Today, two days later, I got a beautiful message from Jack saying, "Hi, Maria. Christel's blood pressure is relatively stable at 130/80, which is a very good sign. We even talked without her falling asleep. Her condition is getting better!" ◆



MARVELS AND THE MACABRE WITH MATTY

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF THE SUPERNATURAL AND STRANGE WITH MATTY SWEENEY!

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Tales of a First-Time Ghost Hunter

By Tara Finley, SpectralTech.org

Ever since I can remember, I have always been drawn to the paranormal. Everything from Bigfoot to life on Mars captivates my interest. So it comes as no surprise that I have found myself exploring the realm of my favorite paranormal being: ghosts.

Searching for the Paranormal

As I grew up, I always knew that spirits were all around me. It did not take long to figure out that my grandparents' home in Bartlett, Tennessee, was haunted. I always enjoyed spending the night and watching paranormal shows on TV with my grandmother before bed with the hopes that the spirits in her home would take notice and follow suit from the spirits we saw on TV by making their presence known.

Much to my terror, they often would. Something about the thrill of experiencing the unknown helped keep the fear at bay.

Now that I'm older, my yearning to experience and understand the paranormal has become even more insatiable. Fortunately, my mother shares my enthusiasm for investigating the unknown and was recently given the opportunity to manage an antique store, which we believe to be haunted.

As one could imagine, an antique store has great potential for harboring spirits, which may come and go just as quickly as some of the items do.

Recently, my mother became acquainted with Bob Fountain, who is a seasoned paranormal investigator with the Spectral Tech paranormal investigation team. I vividly remember the warm, June night several months ago when my mother called me and asked if I would like to do an investigation at the Upscale Resale antique store in Covington, Tennessee, with real ghost hunting equipment and a professional investigator.

My heart jumped, and I felt as though I had just won the lottery!

Tara Finley recently attended her first paranormal investigation with the Spectral Tech investigation team. "Holding a K-II EMF Meter and an Ovilus spirit box for the first time was like a dream come true!" she said.

My First Investigation

When the night finally came, I was incredibly nervous and jumpy, as I had yearned for a chance to work with the high-tech equipment I had seen on television shows all my life. Holding a K-II EMF Meter and an Ovilus spirit box for the first time was like a dream come true!

Bob gave us a crash training course over the ins and outs and what-not-to-do's before we began, and off we went.

My first real investigation went well, although there was a lot more down-time than I expected there to be. I knew what questions I wanted to ask, but I wanted to hear the answers and make conversation with an entity right then and there, which I'm sure as most of you know, is an incredibly rare event.

I felt almost like a superhuman with hypersensitivity to all of my surroundings that first night. I am completely convinced that if someone were to drop a pin on the carpet floor downstairs, I would certainly have heard it, or at least have felt the vibrations of it moving through the air as it fell.

Of course, I'm not that talented, nor have I been exposed to any kind of nuclear waste which gifted me with super powers, but I was still excited nonetheless!

I FELT ALMOST LIKE A SUPERHUMAN WITH HYPERSENSITIVITY TO ALL OF MY SURROUNDINGS.

After the investigation, all that was left to do was review the evidence. I waited anxiously to hear from Bob about his findings and found myself chomping at the bit to hear every little knock or noise that we had caught on the recorders.

We met again about a week later and went over the results from our EVP sessions. I was ecstatic to hear the voices of the spirits who dwell in the store. We did not get much, just a few male voices and a woman or child's voice with the common "hello" and "help."

To a seasoned investigator, it may not seem like much, but to me, it was like Christmas morning. These entities were speaking to me and reacting to my voice and my actions.

I had been touched several times during the investigation as well, and these small interactions have left me wanting more contact.

It's so amazing to think that there are other beings who experience us in a totally different way than we experience them. They can speak to us without vocal chords or breath, they can touch us with unseen hands, they can hear us without ears, and they can move us without ever showing us who they are. I find that both are exhilarating and profound!

After a few more small investigations of the store, I was hooked. Next, we were offered to investigate a site that we could not refuse: an old, dilapidating home with an incredible amount of activity.

Next stop: Byhalia, Mississippi! ◆

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'Haunted Marquette: Ghost Stories From the Queen City'

By Tyler R. Tichelaar

Q&A by Michelle M. Pillow, MichellePillow.com

Tyler R. Tichelaar is a seventh generation resident of Marquette, Michigan. He has a doctorate in literature from Western Michigan University and bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Northern Michigan University. He is the author of numerous books set around Marquette, including *The Marquette Trilogy* and *My Marquette*.

Besides writing about Upper Michigan, Tyler has always been interested in the supernatural and the Gothic. In 2012, he published *The Gothic Wanderer: From Transgression to Redemption*, a study of the Gothic novel from 1794 to the present. He has also written *Spirit of the North: A Paranormal Romance*, a historical fiction novel with a ghost in its storyline.

In addition, he is the author of the *Children of Arthur* historical fantasy series about King Arthur and his descendants; the series contains many Gothic elements, including an appearance by Dracula in the fourth novel, *Lilith's Love*. His newest release, *Haunted Marquette: Ghost Stories From the Queen City*, can be found at all your favorite online bookstores or at www.MarquetteFiction.com.

In 2011, Tyler R. Tichelaar was awarded the Marquette County Outstanding Writer Award. The same year, he received the Barb Kelly Award for Historical Preservation for his efforts to promote Marquette history.

* * * * *

Q: In your book, *Haunted Marquette*, you explore various stories about places in Marquette, Michigan, that are haunted. What inspired you to write about this?

Tyler: I'm a lifelong resident of Marquette, known as the Queen City of the North. I'm well-known for writing history books and historical fiction about the area. I've also always been fascinated with the Gothic and the paranormal.

In recent years, there have been a flood of books about haunted places in various cities, so I thought I better write one about Marquette before someone else did.

Q: What is the one thing that people will get from this book?

Tyler: I hope they will look at Marquette's history in a new way — and by extension all historical cities and places.

My previous books have helped to bring history alive for my readers. Now I want them to consider that the past is not past but still present, as evidenced by the many ghosts said to haunt the city. It's possible my readers may also change their viewpoints about the paranormal and their perspective on life after death.

Q: Are you a paranormal investigator?

Tyler: No, I'm not a paranormal investigator, but there are paranormal groups here in Upper Michigan, and I did interview members of some of them about their experiences for the book. One local medium, Tammy Krassick, was especially helpful.

Q: Do you believe in the supernatural?

Tyler: I have never seen a ghost, but I do believe there are many things we do not have scientific evidence for that are possible.

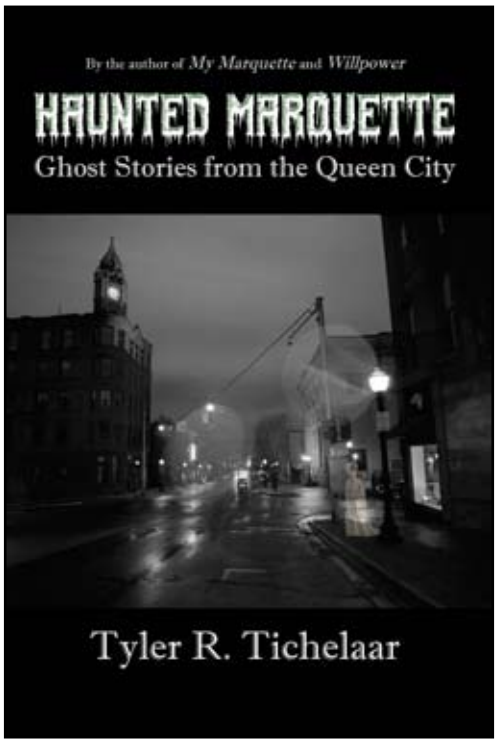
I'm an open-minded person who believes in the Law of Attraction and quantum physics, so I am open to the possibility of other realms and dimensions. I also believe in the immortality of the soul, so I don't see why spirits can't communicate with us.

Q: Why do you think readers, and society in general, are fascinated by the paranormal?

Tyler: A lot of people dismiss an interest in the paranormal as stemming from a desire to be scared, but I think it's far more than that. I think a lot of it has to do with a desire to believe there is life after death. We don't want to believe this life is the only shot we get.

I also think we want comfort in knowing our loved ones who have died still exist and are well. I think a belief in the paranormal reflects a very religious or spiritual element to the human experience — we have a need to believe in a power greater than ourselves. Religions have often tried to control those beliefs, but today more people are seeking on their own, no longer wanting to be controlled by organized religions that have some outdated beliefs.

I think this willingness to explore is a good thing. There is so much we don't know, and there is no such thing in my opinion as forbidden knowledge — I think God wants us to explore and seek answers. Yes, there are ethical and unethical ways to do that, so we have to be careful not to get involved with people who want to scam us. But it's important that we follow our intuitions and do what we personally believe is in the best interests of our souls.



"*Haunted Marquette* deftly weaves history, urban legends, and unexplained phenomena into a kaleidoscope of ghostly hauntings that reveal a side of the Queen City most of us have never experienced but perhaps always feared was there." —Sonny Longtine, author

Q: What did you learn about the paranormal that you didn't know before by writing *Haunted Marquette*?

Tyler: I was hesitant to write the book at first. I was afraid people would think I was crazy to write on such a topic, and I was afraid I would attract crazy people to me who had crazy stories. Instead, I found almost everyone I contacted was extremely interested and willing to share their stories.

Some of the old stories I had heard turned out to be clearly fictional once I did historical research into them, but all of the living people who shared their own personal stories with me were very sincere. In many cases, they said they had not believed in ghosts before they'd had a paranormal experience, and they could not explain the experiences they had had — they just knew what they saw or experienced.

None of these people were simply seeking attention by claiming to have seen a ghost, but they were interested in solving the same mysteries about life after death that I was. Ultimately, writing this book became a very spiritual quest for me, and I think it was that for some of the people I spoke to as well. I was not expecting that when I began, but it was a wonderful result.

Q: Do you have any paranormal pet projects?

Tyler: I have a blog where I mostly write about Gothic literature (www.GothicWanderer.com) and occasionally review other types of books and discuss paranormal experiences.

Q: If given the chance, would you become a vampire?

Tyler: That's a hard question. I'm going to say yes, provided it's only for one day. I promise to be gentle and not kill anyone when I drain his or her blood.

I'd just like to be in a vampire's brain for a day to know how he thinks and also what kind of vision he has — I mean, bats are blind, so vampires, since they often turn into bats, must have many other heightened senses, and it would be pretty cool to be able to fly and have superhuman strength — although sleeping in a coffin doesn't sound very comfortable.

→

I will justify my decision by saying that I would do it for science and as research for a future novel so people would know the truth about vampires and be better able to protect themselves. Somehow, just putting on a vampire costume doesn't answer all those questions for me.

Q: How would you react if you came face to face with a ghost?

Tyler: Depending on how capable the ghost was of communicating, I'd probably get out my camera and voice recorder and ask it all the questions I could. I would hope it would be one of my ancestors who lived here in Marquette.

I'm a genealogy addict and have so many questions. My family has been in Marquette since 1849, so I'm sure some of my relatives are ghosts — I want to know more about their lives. In fact, an ancestral uncle is one of the ghosts I mention in my book, but while a medium has seen him, he hasn't contacted me personally yet.

I'VE HAD SEVERAL LIVES, ESPECIALLY ONE AS A MONK MAKING ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

Q: Have you ever done a past-life regression?

Tyler: Yes. I am a big believer in reincarnation. I have done past-life regressions by listening to tapes. I'm sure I've had several lives, especially one as a monk making illuminated manuscripts in the Middle Ages — I'm sure that's where my love for writing came from.

Q: If you could time slip to any year, when would you go?

Tyler: I'd probably go to 1890 in Marquette. The most prominent of Marquette's early pioneers were still alive then, as well as most of my early Marquette ancestors. If I could just have one day back there I would fill a notebook with my observations — hopefully, I can bring a camera and voice recorder with me too.

Q: Would you jump into a fairy ring?

Tyler: Heck, yeah. I'm also a huge fan of the Arthurian legend and have written the *Children of Arthur* historical fantasy series, so I'm all about getting to know the fairies — maybe they can lead me to Avalon.

The fairy Melusine is featured in my book *Melusine's Gift*, and she grew up in Avalon. I have a lot of questions for King Arthur too, and he's supposedly still hanging out there waiting for the hour of Britain's greatest need.

Q: If you could channel into another author's mind to find out how they wrote a particular book, who would it be?

Tyler: I would definitely want to be inside Bram Stoker's brain. I am sure that he had a lot of sources for *Dracula* that we don't know about. I suspect he read the French vampire novelist Paul Feval, but I don't know for sure.

Dracula is so superior to Stoker's earlier books that I'd like to know what inspired him. I've written a lot about the novel *Dracula* in my book *The Gothic Wanderer*, and I've written a sort of sequel to *Dracula* in my fourth *Children of Arthur* book, *Lilith's Love*, in which I tell the life story of Quincey Harker, who has Dracula's blood in him.

Q: If you could be anywhere while writing, where would you be and why?

Tyler: Anywhere in England. I love it there. So much history, and so much natural beauty to the landscape. I'm also descended from many famous people from English history, including King Edward III and all his ancestors.

Maybe I could also meet some of their ghosts and ask them some questions.

Q: What are your favorite paranormal shows, movies, and books?

Tyler: I love *Svengoolie* and all the old horror films he shows on TV. I especially like the old Hammer studios vampire films. In more recent years, I've been a fan of the film *Dracula Untold* and the TV shows *The Ghost Whisperer* and *Medium*.

I love all the nineteenth century Gothic classics — *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, *The Monk*, *Melmoth the Wanderer*, *Zanoni*, *Dracula*, etc.

Q: What does the future hold for your writing?

Tyler: I'm about to publish the last of my five-book *Children of Arthur* series. I'm also working on another historical fiction novel about Teddy Roosevelt's libel trial that took place here in Marquette in 1913. And I imagine there will be a sequel to *Haunted Marquette*, since I already have more stories than I was able to put in the book.

I hope to live long enough to write many books, but if not, maybe I'll come back and channel novels through some aspiring novelist in the 22nd century.

* * * * *

To learn more about Tyler R. Tichelaar, visit www.MarquetteFiction.com and www.HauntedMarquette.com. ◆

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